

## Know Before You Vote- Donald Trump and Joe Biden

### 1. General

- Biden- Age- 77/78 on Nov 20
- Trump- Age- 74- has had covid and personality traits

### 2. Economy and Covid- new cases

Until Covid is under control, economy will suffer

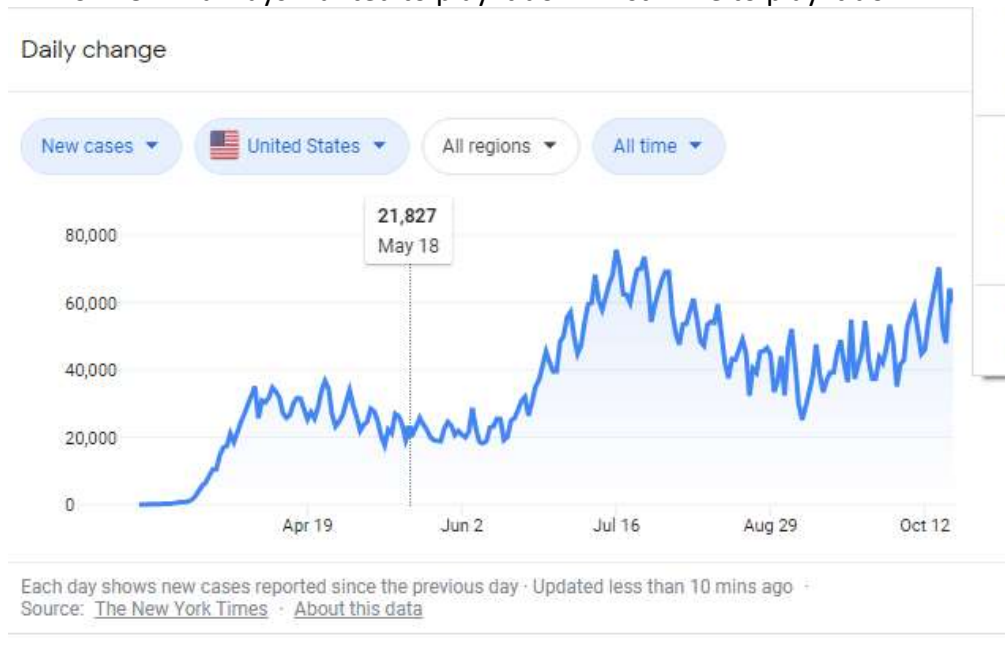
- Biden takes covid seriously
- Trump dismisses it- says there is not much he would do differently with his Covid Response  
(Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/Health/live-updates/coronavirus/?id=73708036>-)

### TRUMP'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON COVID-19:

- FEB. 2* - "We've pretty much shut it [the coronavirus] down.
- FEB. 26* - "The risk to the American people remains very low.
- FEB. 26* - "We view this the same as the flu."
- FEB. 28* - "Democrats are politicizing the coronavirus. It's their new hoax.

### TRUMP'S PRIVATE STATEMENTS ON COVID-19:

- FEB. 7* - "It's more deadly than even your most strenuous flu."
- FEB. 7* - "This is more deadly. This is 5% deaths versus 1% or less than 1%.
- MARCH 13* - "It's not just old people, it's young people too."
- MARCH 19* - "I always wanted to play it down. I still like to play it down."



Source – NY Times- October 20- there were 60,590 NEW cases

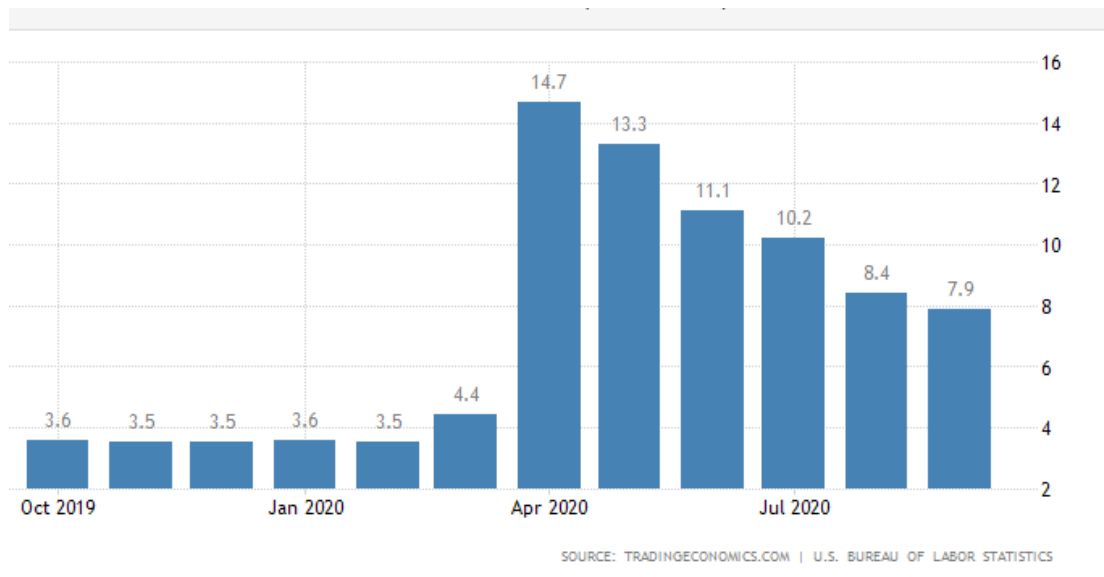
### U.S. states with record increases in COVID-19 cases

So far in October, 26 U.S. states have reported record increases in new coronavirus cases.



Source: Reuters data

**Unemployment at 7.9% is still double previous levels.**



Additionally, the Fed indicated that the interest rate would stay at or near zero through 2023 and they would increase holdings of Treasury securities and agency mortgage-backed securities at the current pace helping stave off even a deeper financial crisis.

**Small businesses-** Yelp (Sept. 16) indicated that business closures are increasing in the US as the result of covid. As of August 31, 163,735 businesses on Yelp have closed a 23% increase since mid-July. Permanent closures have reached 97,966 representing 60% of closed businesses. Source-<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/09/16/yelp-data-shows-60percent-of-business-closures-due-to-the-coronavirus-pandemic-are-now-permanent.html>

Additionally, the PPP money to help small business actually went to larger businesses and those with 15 employees or less got little. And businesses with fewer than 20 workers made up 89% of small businesses.

### 3. Corporate Taxes

- a. For 2018- companies brought back \$665 billion from offshore locations- due to Trump tax cuts from 35% to a one-time rate of 14.5% on cash on 8% on other assets. The concept was that these companies would hire more people and increase their salaries. The question is- did the ordinary person benefit? Apple significantly increased its share buyback program (great if you are the CEO).

2012: \$10 billion buyback authorization

2013: \$60 billion

2014: \$90 billion

2015: \$140 billion

2016: \$175 billion

2017: \$210 billion

2018: \$310 billion

2019: \$385 billion

4. Trump Wants to Make Payroll Tax Cuts Permanent meaning No funding for Social Security, Medicare and Unemployment and retirement for federal and railroad workers. Trump says he will fund it from someplace else. The payroll tax is 36% of the total federal budget, income taxes are 50%, corporate taxes are 7%, Excise and tariffs- 4%, estate taxes are 1% and interest is 2%. Unless Trump raises corporate and individual taxes, there is no way he could “get money from someplace else” to make up 36% of the budget. He wants to eliminate payroll taxes since as we know that is the only tax he pays (\$750 to zero income taxes he has paid). Learn more- <https://boredommd.com/place/trumps-promise-make-payroll-tax-cut-permanent-means-social-security-medicare-unemployment/>

### 5. Environment

- a. Paris Climate Accord – with 196 countries to help decrease carbon emissions. Decided in June, 2017-Effective November 4, 2020-Trump withdraws US because of “unfair economic burden imposed on American workers, businesses and taxpayers by US pledges under the agreement”. Under the Paris Agreement, rich countries committed to mobilizing tens of billions of dollars every year to help poor countries cope with climate change. The pact also put adaptation to the impacts of climate change on an equal footing to emissions reduction – the latter historically preoccupying the developed world.

According to a report by the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Paris Agreement can create 24 million new jobs by 2030 with the right policies to promote a sustainable and just economy in place. Trump says it could cost America as much as 2.7 million lost jobs by 2025 according to the National Economic Research Associates. So conflicting information.

Under the agreement, China will be able to increase emissions by a staggering number of years — 13. They can do whatever they want for 13 years. Not the USA. India makes its participation contingent on receiving billions and billions of dollars in foreign aid from developed countries. India and China did not take any emission cut or reduction in their coal fired power plants and were exempted from paying to the global fund to support the most vulnerable countries. China is world's biggest carbon emitter, about double of the USA, but its population four times more than of the USA. China's voluntary plan to reduce greenhouse gas reduction allows the emission of the country to increase until 2030.

The termination of the \$3 billion U.S funding will ultimately impact climate change research and decrease society's chance of reaching the Paris Agreement goals. More-  
<https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/donald-trump-has-left-the-paris-climate-agreement-china-and-india-fail-to-fill-the-/305441>

Following Trump's announcement, the governors of several U.S. states formed the [United States Climate Alliance](#) to continue to advance the objectives of the Paris Agreement at the state level despite the federal withdrawal. As of July 1, 2019, 24 states and [Puerto Rico](#) have joined the alliance,<sup>1</sup> and similar commitments have also been expressed by other state governors, mayors, and businesses

- b. Auto Emissions- While Trump reduced emission standards, Ford, Volkswagon, Honda and BMW (30% of global car market) ignored him and will continue to reduce emission and fuel economy through 2026 under the Obama plan. 20 States sued Trump's new standards and it will end up in the Supreme Court.
- c. May 2, 2019- Trump rolled back some safety measures that regulate offshore drilling including the Obama measure that required more tests on blowout preventors and other parts of drilling apparatuses and required safety checks from independent investigators (from BP oil in Gulf of Mexico resulting in 11 killed and 200 million gallons of oil in to the sea).
- d. March 12, 2019- Trump signed a bill that provides protection to over 2 million acres of lands across the US, creating new national monuments in Mississippi and Kentucky and protecting hundreds of miles of rivers under the Wild and Scenic Rivers program. The Bill also guarantees authorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund to use revenues from offshore oil and gas to fund public lands and conservation efforts nationwide.
- e. January 15, 2019- Trump executive order to increase logging of forests on federal land- 4 billion board feet of timber which is 31% more than 2017.
- f. Trump rolled back Obama climate rules that lifted some restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions from coal power plants. Plants no longer have to meet strict goals of achieving emissions equal to or less than what plants would have achieved with carbon capture and storage technology. The coal industry said that old rules inhibited new plant construction but in 2018 coal consumption was down 4% and the lowest level since 1979 due to competition from natural gas and renewable energy sources.

- g. October 24, 2018- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management allows for the first oil and gas production wells at US Arctic area.
- h. October 12, 2018-Trump signs bill to clean up ocean plastics and called out China and Japan for their actions. The law funds the program through 2022. Japan has had for years one of the world's highest recycling rates and China stopped buying the world's trash (the US included). China's action resulted in instead of recycling- reuse and use alternatives.
- i. October 8, 2018- Ban on mining near Yellowstone extended for another 20 years.
- j. September 28, 2018- Trump administration predicts 7 degrees of global warming by 2100 with global carbon emissions doubling. Trump proposed fuel efficiency standards for cars and light trucks from 2021 to 2026 to 37 miles per gallon while Obama wanted 46.7 miles per gallon for 2025 vehicles. This change increases vehicle carbon emissions. The Trump administration says the rule is a necessary safety fix, arguing that it would lower the cost of newer vehicles and thus encourage people to get newer, safer cars.
- k. September 18, 2018- Trump EPA rolled back Obama policy reducing requirements on oil and gas companies to monitor and mitigate releases of methane from wells and other operations. Methane is the second largest contributor to global warming and have increased by 150% over the past three centuries. The amount of methane that comes from burning fossils fuels is much higher than previously thought- as much as 40% higher.
- l. July 19, 2018- Endangered Species Act- bulwark against the bald eagle's extinction and thousands of other species. Removes rule that forbids referring to the economic impact of listing and endangered or threatened species but also says determinations would still be based only on biological consideration. It also gives regulators greater freedom to avoid designating critical habitat for threatened or endangered species.
- m. March 16, 2018- FEMA takes verbiage of climate change out of its strategic plan.
- n. January 31, 2018- Trump 2019 budget slashes Department of Energy funding for renewable energy and energy efficient initiatives by 72%.
- o. January 15, 2019- Nine of 12 members of the National Park System Advisory Board resigned in protest of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's refusal to meet with them.
- p. January 10, 2018- Trump administration altered US government websites to cut out mentions of climate change.(Source- National Geographic)

## 6. Covid Treatment and Vaccine

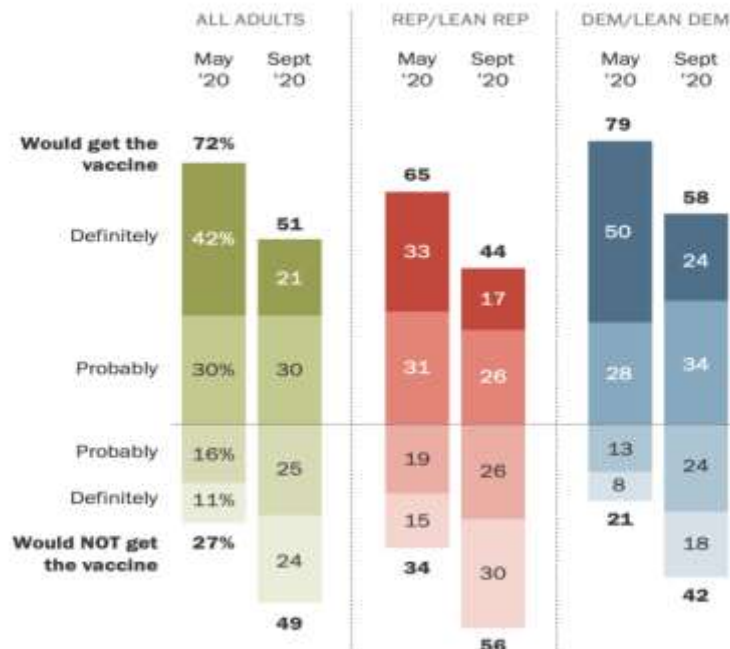
- a. Trump received Remdesivir that is \$3,000 a dose and a cocktail of monoclonal antibodies being developed by the drug maker Regeneron and involves the use of a fetal cell line derived from an aborted fetus- a practice that the president has condemned and his administration has tried to curtail (however, if your life is on the line than that doesn't matter). Trump said he would provide this cocktail treatment free to anyone who needed it, especially seniors. Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson ALL use cell lines from fetal tissue.
- b. Vaccine- as of October –Trump has pressured others to get a vaccine before it if fully tested and has got pushback.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/health-and-human-body/human-diseases/coronavirus-vaccine-tracker-how-they-work-latest-developments-cvd/>

The issues are: (1) when will one be developed, (2) how distributed, (3) as of September 2020 only 51% of US adults said they would get a vaccine if it were available, (4)- vaccines don't always work the same – eg. measles is 98% effective and the regular flu is 40-60% effective. US regular are requiring the covid vaccine to be 50% effective. And, two thirds of the population would have to be vaccinated to have general immunity. We are talking years here.

**Drop in share of Americans who say they would get a COVID-19 vaccine if it were available to them today**

*% of U.S. adults who say if a vaccine to prevent COVID-19 were available today, they ...*



Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.  
 Source: Survey conducted Sept. 8-13, 2020.  
 "U.S. Public Now Divided Over Whether To Get COVID-19 Vaccine"  
**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**

Pfizer and Moderna vaccines they are working on to date have to be given in two doses a month apart and it takes two weeks for immunity to build.

c. And, many people are still using Purell as a sanitizer (that only kills bacteria, not viruses) instead of an alcohol based one.

7. Foreign Affairs

a. "The Wall" with Mexico and Immigration

Trump said he would build 1000 miles of wall with 500 to 600 miles of it being new walls. As of August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020- 30 miles of new wall have been completed of which 5 are primary barriers and 25 miles are secondary barriers. There has been 245 miles of the wall that have been replaced. (Source- <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-09-01/the-border-wall-that-u-s-not-mexico-is-paying-for-quicktake>)

b. Deportations- Obama focused on criminals and over 2.5 million undocumented immigrants were deported. Under Trump, 800,000 immigrants have been deported.

- c. Relationships with foreign heads of state and others –Trump debases everyone.

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_nicknames\\_used\\_by\\_Donald\\_Trump](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_nicknames_used_by_Donald_Trump))

Trump has insulted Mexico, Germany, Canada, Japan and England, Australia and more while cuddling up to Putin and King Jung Un. Trump declared at the NATO summit in December 2019 that “we have peace with North Korea and he has a better personal relationship with Kim Jong Un than the dictator possibly has with anyone else in the world.” As for North Korea’s missile program, they have continued their program.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/north-korea-crisis-how-events-have-unfolded-under-trump-n753996>)

Trump- Hunter Biden and Trump-Russia- Trump's partners and children have repeatedly visited Moscow, connecting with developers and government officials to explore joint venture opportunities. Trump was never able to successfully conclude any real estate deals in Russia. However, individual Russians have invested heavily in Trump properties, and following Trump's bankruptcies in the 1990s he borrowed money from Russian sources. In 2008 his son Donald Trump Jr. said that Russia was an important source of money for the Trump businesses. Efforts to build a Trump building in Moscow continued into June 2016, during which Trump was securing the Republican nomination for the presidential election.

Trump- Hunter Biden –Burisma Holdings executive emailed Hunter to thank him for introduction to his father and Hunter expected to be paid \$10 million a year for introductions alone from China’s largest energy company in a deal.

Bottom line- both use their power—politics is a compromising occupation.

8. Education- Needless to say Covid-19 has disrupted education from elementary to college level.

- a. Biden – Make two year community college tuition free. Cancel \$10,000 of every American Student’s debt and revise current loan repayment, establish universal prekindergarten.
- b. Donald Trump – Strengthen school choice policy and expand accessibility to charter schools, promote patriotic education curriculum in schools.

9. Healthcare

- a. Trump’s desire to end payroll tax would defund Medicare (payroll tax is the only tax he pays)
- b. Affordable Care Act- if overturned by Supreme Court millions would lose coverage including pre-existing condition and having children 26 and under on your policy.
- c. Trump has indicated he has lowered drug prices- they have been reduced by .06 percent in 2018. On July 24, 2020 Trump signed an executive order relative to drug costs – prescription drug importation, drug rebates for Medicare Part D and cost of insulin and injectable epinephrine in federally funded qualified health centers. The last order – most favored national – that uses international reference prices to lower drug costs in the US was not released. To date, these have not taken effect. Learn more -

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/healthcare/news/2020/10/15/491425/little-late-trumps-prescription-drug-executive-order-not-help-patients/>



## 10. Gun Control

- a. March 23, 2018- Trump signed the FIX NICS Act which improves the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. It requires federal agencies to submit semiannual certification reports to the attorney general on their compliance with record-keeping and transmission requirements, and to come up with plans to increase coordination and automated reporting. It carried financial penalties for political appointees who didn't comply.
- b. February 28, 2019- 97% of Americans want universal background checks- where there are checks there are 35% less gun murders than states that do not have them. The goal would be to expand background checks to private sales by unlicensed individuals at gun shows and over the internet. Trump agreed but met privately with the NRA and backed off (money talks, values walk). More- <https://www.factcheck.org/2019/08/trumps-mixed-record-on-gun-control/>

## 11. Biden's Accomplishments

- a. AS VP, oversaw implementation of American Recovery and Investment Act in 2009 after the last economic disaster due to financial markets. Saved the American auto industry.
- b. Brokered Budget control Act of 2011 to avert federal government shutdown
- c. Retooled \$1.5 billion in grants for federal employment and training programs
- d. Helped Pass Obamacare- Affordable Care Act
- e. Helped accelerate efforts to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer
- f. Sponsored the original Violence Against Women Act in 1994 leading to a decline from 2.1 million victims to 907,000
- g. As Chair of all male Senate Judiciary Committee, advocated for the addition of Senators Dianne Feinstein and Carol Moseley Braun
- h. Co-sponsored proposed legislation to curb greenhouse gas emissions in 2007
- i. Called of US participation in UN climate negotiations in 2005
- j. Introduced one of the Senate's first climate change bills in 1986 leading to a creation of a task force on global warming
- k. Oversaw dispersement of \$90 billion for clean energy of party of 2009 Recovery Act. Solar power increased 20 times between 2008 and 2016
- l. Secured the passage of arms limitation agreement in 1979 between the US and Soviet Union, reducing the risk of global nuclear disaster
- m. Advocated for economic sanctions against South Africa's apartheid government
- n. Pushed for US intervention in Yugoslav wars of the 1990's ending ethnic cleansing and bringing peace to the region
- o. Served as primary sponsor of the Protect Our Children Act of 2008, helping law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute child predators
- p. Sponsored the Criminal History Background Checks Extension Act of 2008 allowing volunteer organization (eg. children's sports groups) to obtain national and state criminal history background checks on their volunteers
- q. Co-authored the 1994 Crime bill which resulted in decreasing levels of violent crime and increasing rates of incarceration. (Biden says he recognizes flaws in the bill)



## 12. Trump Accomplishments

- a. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act- provided tax relief to 82% of middle-class families, doubled Child Tax Credit providing an additional \$1000 per child in tax relief, doubled the standard deduction, cut taxes for businesses, repealed Obamacare's individual mandate, lowered corporate tax rate to 21%.
- b. Trade- Imposed 25% global tariff on steel and aluminum, withdrew the US from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, re-negotiated North American FREE Trade Agreement, created new tariffs on imported large resident washing machines and solar cells, won a challenge against China unfair anti-dumping duties on US policy exports as well as Indonesia's unfair restriction of US imports.
- c. Healthcare – Department of Agriculture provided more than \$1 billion in 2017 to be used to improve access to healthcare for 2.5 million people in rural communities. Signed a six year extension of CHIP to fund healthcare for 9 million. In 2017 invested \$900 million in opioid specific funding.
- d. Law Enforcement- Executive Order to allow state and local law enforcement access to surplus equipment from Defense Department such as armored vehicles. Prosecutors were directed by the Department of Justice to take illegal guns off the streets – criminals charged with unlawful possession of a firearm has increased 23%. Has appointed two conservative judges to Supreme Court, 50 circuit or appeals court judges and 80 district court judges.
- e. October 1, 2020- Trump providing \$20 billion in new funding for providers on the frontlines of the covid pandemic. Providers that have already received Provider Relief Fund payments will be invited to apply for additional funding that considers financial losses and changes in operating expenses caused by the coronavirus. Previously ineligible providers, such as those who began practicing in 2020 will also be invited to apply. They could start applying as of October 5<sup>th</sup>.
- f. MORE- <https://www.promiseskept.com/> (note that which is a promise and that which was actually implemented)

Whomever you vote for, we hope you have a few more reasons why you are voting for that person.