Communicating in Crisis: Coronavirus

Daily Update:
Tuesday, May 12, 2020
Key takeaways:

• Governors retain higher approval ratings than Trump on handling the pandemic, but Democratic governors and those who have not started partially reopening are most popular.

• A second wave of the pandemic continues to be a top worry for Americans.

• A majority continue to be concerned that social distancing will end too soon.
Highest Approval Ratings for Governors Maintaining Social Distancing Measures

However, a deeper look finds that the increase in disapproval is being driven by more negative ratings of Republican governors and those who have the most relaxed social distancing guidelines.

- Republican governors of states that have partially reopened have the lowest approval ratings on handling the pandemic (53% approve/40% disapprove).

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor _______ is handling the coronavirus pandemic?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Approve</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
<th>Disapprove</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27-May 4</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Governors</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican Governors</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay-At-Home States*</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial Rollback States</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Stay-at-home states” refers to those that are continuing their stay-at-home orders and not reopening. “Partial rollback states” refers to those that are starting to partially reopen their states. Nationwide survey of 1,687 registered voters; April 27-May 4, 2020; Nationwide survey of 1,683 registered voters; May 4-May 11, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Majority Disapprove of Trump’s Response

For more than a month now, Trump’s approval rating on his handling of the coronavirus pandemic has been underwater.

- The share of Americans who “strongly disapprove” continues to rise, with more than two in five Americans saying they “strongly disapprove” (42%).

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Donald Trump is handling the coronavirus pandemic?
The majority of Americans trust their state and local government to handle the coronavirus pandemic more than they trust Trump and the federal government.

- Even among Republicans with Democratic governors, 25% trust their state and local government more to handle the coronavirus pandemic.

Please indicate who you trust more to handle the government’s response to the coronavirus pandemic.
Belief “Worst is Yet to Come” Ticking Back Up

More than half of Americans still believe the worst is yet to come in the coronavirus pandemic, and this number has increased 13 points in the last week.

• 57% of independents say the worst is yet to come, up 23 points since May 5 (from 34%).
• This comes as 83% of Americans say they are “very” or “somewhat” worried that the country will experience a “second wave” of the outbreak once the country starts to reopen.

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic in the United States, do you personally think that...

Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three days. Latest wave conducted May 6-May 11, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org
A “Second Wave” Remains Biggest Concern

Worries about a “second wave” of the pandemic following reopening continue to grow while other worries about the pandemic stay steady.

Below are some things some people might be worried about in light of the coronavirus pandemic. Please indicate how worried you are about each one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Very Worried</th>
<th>May 8</th>
<th>May 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>That we will experience a &quot;second wave&quot; of the coronavirus outbreak once the country starts to reopen (asked since 5/1)</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The economy falling into a recession</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone close to you getting infected with coronavirus</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three days. Latest wave conducted May 6-May 11, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org
Personal and Public Health Remain Bigger Concern

Americans remain more concerned about their family’s health than their financial situation and the impact of coronavirus on public health than the economy as a whole.

- Over the past week, we’ve seen a 5-point increase in the share who are more concerned about the impact of the pandemic on people’s health rather than the economy as a whole.

In thinking about the impact of coronavirus on you, which are you more worried about...

In thinking about the impact of coronavirus on the country, which are you more worried about...

Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three days. Latest wave conducted May 6-May 11, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org
Majority Still Concerned Social Distancing Will End Too Soon

Despite the reopening of some states, the majority of Americans remain more concerned that social distancing will end too soon rather than go on too long.

- Nearly four in 10 Republicans (39%) and more than two-thirds of independents (65%) are more concerned that social distancing will end too soon, prolonging the pandemic.

When it comes to social distancing and the coronavirus pandemic, which of the following concerns you more right now?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>May 11</th>
<th>May 4</th>
<th>April 24</th>
<th>April 16</th>
<th>April 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social distancing will end too soon and prolong the pandemic, endangering the economy and putting American lives at risk</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social distancing will go on too long and cause unnecessary damage to the economy and American's livelihoods</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nationwide survey of 1,020 registered voters; May 6-May 11, 2020.
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org
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press@navigatorresearch.org

To learn more about Navigator:
http://navigatorresearch.org
@NavigatorSurvey on Twitter

About Navigator

In a world where the news cycle is the length of a tweet, our leaders often lack the real-time public-sentiment analysis to shape the best approaches to talking about the issues that matter the most. Navigator is designed to act as a consistent, flexible, responsive tool to inform policy debates by conducting research and reliable guidance to inform allies, elected leaders, and the press. Navigator is a project led by pollsters from Global Strategy Group and GBAO along with an advisory committee, including: Andrea Purse, progressive strategist; Arkadi Gerney, The Hub Project; Christina Reynolds, EMILY’s List; Delvone Michael, Working Families; Felicia Wong, Roosevelt Institute; Mike Podhorzer, AFL-CIO; Jesse Ferguson, progressive strategist; Navin Nayak, Center for American Progress Action Fund; Stephanie Valencia, EquisLabs; and Melanie Newman, Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted a public opinion survey among a sample of 1,020 registered voters conducted May 6-May 11, 2020. The survey was conducted online, recruiting respondents from multiple opt-in online panel vendors. Respondents were verified against a voter file and special care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of our sample matched that of the national registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables.