



# Questions in Context:

The 2020 Presidential Election Debates - through  
The October 15 Town Halls

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## Overview

In past presidential elections, the Winston Group has analyzed the primary and general election debates to build a picture of how the topics covered interact with what voters have said — through surveys and exit polls — are their greatest concerns and the issues that are the most important for them in choosing for whom they will vote.

The following report continues analysis for the 2020 Presidential debates, here focusing on the two town halls, one featuring Vice President Biden and one featuring President Donald Trump, that were aired in lieu of a second debate. The Commission on Presidential Debates canceled the second debate after President Trump declined to participate in a virtual debate, which was to be held in response to his recent COVID-19 diagnosis.

In the last debate, the Vice Presidential debate between Vice President Mike Pence and Senator Kamala Harris, question topics were relatively evenly distributed, with coronavirus, electability, and social issues each all tying for the top tier of questions. The number of questions directed to the candidates and the answers they offered were also roughly equal, as was the total amount of speaking time for each of the two candidates. In terms of the question topics across both the Presidential and Vice Presidential debates, the coronavirus and social issues have so far been the dominant topics.

This report will continue our analysis, with information on the two town halls featuring Vice President Biden and President Trump, broadcast on October 15 by ABC News and NBC News, respectively, and moderated by George Stephanopoulos and Savannah Guthrie. How will the question topics change as the candidates face questions from the moderators, and voters, on their own? How will the voter questions differ from those posed by the moderators? How will the types of questions each candidate receives differ or not differ?

Note: Due to the fact that these are not true debates, but town hall style question and answer sessions, this report will forgo the sections on to whom the questions were directed and the total candidate speaking times.

## Debate Topics

The chart on the next page shows the distribution of questions by topic area for the September 29 Presidential debate as well as across all of the 2019-2020 Democratic primary debates and the 2016 Presidential debates. For the purposes of comparability, we re-use the same topic categories from our past debate reports. The exceptions are the “Impeachment” category, which was added during the Democratic primaries, and “Coronavirus”. We have also expanded the “Energy/Environment” category to include questions on climate change.

Most of the topics are self explanatory, but for a few, definitions may be helpful. The “electability” topic area includes questions addressed directly to a candidate about his/her ability to attract a large portion of the electorate (for example, asking a candidate about his/her standing in the polls or statements he/she made that have raised questions, such as whether the candidate will accept the outcome of the election and/or encourage his/her supporters to do so as well). The “other candidates” topic area refers to questions that directly ask one candidate about another candidate’s past, policies, or prospects. The “For Fun” topic area includes lighthearted questions aimed at letting viewers see more of a candidate’s personality. “Social Security/Retirement” consists of questions that address that topic as a separate individual retirement benefit issue — other entitlements questions fall under “Spending/National Debt.”

Questions asked multiple times of different candidates are not counted more than once.

## Question Totals - October 15 Town Halls

General Topic Area	October 15 Joe Biden Town Hall		October 15 Donald Trump Town Hall	
	# of Questions	% of Questions	# of Questions	% of Questions
Coronavirus	5	19.2%	19	42.2%
Economy	2	7.7%	3	6.7%
Education	-	-	-	-
Electability	2	7.7%	8	17.8%
Energy/Environment/Climate Change	3	11.5%	-	-
For Fun	-	-	-	-
Foreign Policy/National Security	1	3.9%	-	-
Health care	-	-	2	4.4%
Immigration	-	-	2	4.4%
Impeachment	-	-	-	-
Judicial System	3	11.5%	3	6.7%
Other Candidates	1	3.9%	-	-
Presidential Priorities	3	11.5%	3	6.7%
Social Issues	6	23.1%	5	11.1%
Social Security/Retirement	-	-	-	-
Spending/National Debt	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>45</b>	

## Question Totals - 2020 Presidential

General Topic Area	September 29 Presidential		October 7 Vice Presidential		October 15 Joe Biden Town Hall		October 15 Donald Trump Town Hall		Total - All 2020 Presidential	
	# of Qs	% of Qs	# of Qs	% of Qs	# of Qs	% of Qs	# of Qs	% of Qs	# of Qs	% of Qs
Coronavirus	6	21.4%	4	20.0%	5	19.2%	19	42.2%	34	28.6%
Economy	3	10.7%	2	10.0%	2	7.7%	3	6.7%	10	8.4%
Education	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Electability	4	14.3%	4	20.0%	2	7.7%	8	17.8%	18	15.1%
Energy/ Environment/ Climate Change	2	7.1%	3	15.0%	3	11.5%	-	-	8	6.7%
For Fun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign Policy/ National Security	-	-	2	10.0%	1	3.9%	-	-	3	2.5%
Health care	2	7.1%	1	5.0%	-	-	2	4.4%	5	4.2%
Immigration	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4.4%	2	1.7%
Impeachment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Judicial System	4	14.3%	-	-	3	11.5%	3	6.7%	10	8.4%
Other Candidates	-	-	-	-	1	3.9%	-	-	1	0.8%
Presidential Priorities	-	-	-	-	3	11.5%	3	6.7%	6	5.0%
Social Issues	7	25.0%	4	20.0%	6	23.1%	5	11.1%	22	18.5%
Social Security/ Retirement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spending/National Debt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>26</b>		<b>45</b>		<b>119</b>	

## Historical Question Totals - 2016 Presidential, 2020 Democratic Primaries, and 2020 Presidential

General Topic Area	2016 Presidential		2020 Democratic Primaries		2020 Presidential	
	# of Questions	% of Questions	# of Questions	% of Questions	# of Questions	% of Questions
Coronavirus	-	-	10	2.2%	34	28.6%
Economy	8	10.4%	37	8.3%	10	8.4%
Education	-	-	14	3.1%	-	-
Electability	22	28.8%	51	11.4%	18	15.1%
Energy/ Environment/ Climate Change	1	1.3%	37	8.3%	8	6.7%
For Fun	-	-	3	0.7%	-	-
Foreign Policy/ National Security	21	27.3%	61	13.6%	3	2.5%
Health care	2	2.6%	38	8.5%	5	4.2%
Immigration	3	3.9%	29	6.5%	2	1.7%
Impeachment	-	-	19	4.2%	-	-
Judicial System	2	2.6%	6	1.3%	10	8.4%
Other Candidates	3	3.9%	46	10.3%	1	0.8%
Presidential Priorities	-	-	10	2.2%	6	5.0%
Social Issues	11	14.3%	83	18.5%	22	18.5%
Social Security/ Retirement	2	2.6%	-	-	-	-
Spending/ National Debt	2	2.6%	4	0.9%	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>		<b>448</b>		<b>119</b>	

## Conclusion

When it came to question topics for Vice President Joe Biden, social issues (6 out of 26 questions, or about 23%) and coronavirus (5 questions, or about 19%) led the way. Questions about energy/the environment/climate change, the judicial system, and presidential priorities came next (3 questions, or about 12%, each), followed by the economy and electability (2 questions, or about 8%, each), and foreign policy and other candidates (1 question, or about 4%, each). In terms of questions Trump received, the topic of coronavirus dominated his questions, comprising 19 of the 45 questions (42%) of the questions posed to him. Electability came next at 8 of 45 questions (about 18%), followed by social issues (5 questions or 11%), the economy, the judicial system, and presidential priorities (3 questions, or 7%, each), and health care and immigration (2 questions, or 4%, each).

One difference that is immediately apparent between the two town halls is the number of total questions each candidate received, with President Trump receiving notably more than Vice President Biden. This reflects the two very different discussions that took place at the two town hall events. Where Biden and Stephanopoulos engaged in a more classic, question-and-answer style of town hall, Trump would frequently interrupt Guthrie as she was asking her questions. Guthrie would also often assert items from her research when Trump said things that contradicted those items, with these assertions counted as questions.

The questions posed by the moderators vs. the questions posed by the voters also reflected this difference. Voter questions accounted for 11 out of the 26 questions posed to Biden (about 42%) and 10 of the 45 questions (22%) of the questions posed to Trump. Frequently, in the Biden town hall, a voter would pose a question on a certain topic, with Stephanopoulos posing additional questions as follow-ups, and so the question topics were relatively similar. The exceptions to this were a voter question on foreign policy and a question pertaining to protections for transgender Americans. The Trump town hall did not quite follow the same format (as evidenced by the smaller share of voter questions), although Guthrie would sometimes ask follow-up questions to those that voters had posed. Nevertheless, in the Trump town hall, voters introduced topics like the economy, health care (independent of COVID), and social issues like abortion.

Across all four events so far (the Presidential debate, the Vice Presidential Debate, and the two town halls), coronavirus (29% of all questions asked) and social issues (18%, displayed at 18.5% in the table but which rounds down if taken out further decimal points), have been the top two question priorities to date. Electability (15%) rounds out this top tier, with the economy (8%), the judicial system (8%) and energy/environment/climate change (7%) occupying the next tier. Relatively few questions have been asked on health care (outside of the coronavirus context - 4%), foreign policy (3%), immigration (2%) or the other candidate (1%).

As noted in our previous debate reports, the economy and health care, with a focus on the coronavirus, tend to be the dominant topics when the electorate is asked what is the most important issue in determining their vote.

# Appendix - 2020 Presidential Debate Questions

Debate Number — Location — Date — Sponsors	Question	Asker	To Whom The Question was Directed	Question Topic
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Gentlemen, a lot of people been waiting for this night, so let's get going. Our first subject is the Supreme Court. President Trump, you nominated Amy Coney Barrett over the weekend to succeed the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Court. You say the Constitution is clear about your obligation and the Senate's to consider a nominee to the Court. Vice President Biden, you say that this is an effort by the President and Republicans to jam through on an appointment in what you call an abuse of power. My first question to both of you tonight, why are you right in the argument you make and your opponent wrong? And where do you think a Justice Barrett would take the court? President Trump, in this first segment, you go first. Two minutes.	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump, Joe Biden	Judicial system
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Mr. President, the Supreme Court will hear a case a week after the election in which the Trump Administration, along with 18 state Attorney Generals are seeking to overturn Obamacare, to end Obamacare. ... You, in the course of these four years, have never come up with a comprehensive plan to replace Obamacare, and just this last Thursday you signed a largely symbolic Executive Order to protect people with pre-existing conditions five days before this debate. So my question, sir, is what is the Trump healthcare plan? ... What about pre-existing conditions?	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump	Health care
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Sir, you'll be happy. I'm about to pick up on one of your points to ask the Vice President, which is, he points out that you would like to add a public option to Obamacare. ... And the argument that he makes and other Republicans make is that that is going to end private insurance. ... And it will end private insurance and create a government takeover of health.	Chris Wallace	Joe Biden	Health care
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Mr. Vice President, if Senate Republicans, we were talking originally about the Supreme Court here, if Senate Republicans go ahead and confirm Justice Barrett there has been talk about ending the filibuster or even packing the court, adding to the nine justices there. You call this a distraction by the President. But, in fact, it wasn't brought up by the President. It was brought up by some of your Democratic colleagues in the Congress. So my question to you is, you have refused in the past to talk about it, are you willing to tell the American tonight whether or not you will support either ending the filibuster or packing the court?	Chris Wallace	Joe Biden	Judicial system
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	All right, the second subject is COVID-19, which is an awfully serious subject. So let's try to be serious about it. We have had more than seven million cases of coronavirus in the United States and more than 200,000 people have died. Even after we produce a vaccine, experts say that it could be months or even years before we come back to anything approaching normal. My question for both of you is, based on what you have said and done so far, and what you have said you would do starting in 2021, why should the American people trust you more than your opponent to deal with this public health crisis going forward? In this case, the question goes to you first, sir. Two minutes, uninterrupted.	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump, Joe Biden	Coronavirus

Debate Number— Location— Date— Sponsors	Question	Asker	To Whom The Question was Directed	Question Topic
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Okay, gentlemen, gentlemen. Let me move on to questions about the future because you both have touched on two of the questions I'm going to ask. Focusing on the future first, President Trump, you have repeatedly either contradicted or been at odds with some of your governments own top scientists. The week before last, the Head of the Centers for Disease Control, Dr. Redfield said it would be summer before the vaccine would become generally available to the public. You said that he was confused and mistaken. Those were your two words. But Dr. Slaoui, the head of your Operation Warp Speed, has said exactly the same thing. Are they both wrong?	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	I want to pick up on this question though. You say the public can trust the scientists, but they can't trust President Trump. In fact, you said that again tonight. Your running mate, Senator Harris, goes further, saying that public health experts quote, "Will be muzzled, will be suppressed." Given the fact that polls already show that people are concerned about the vaccine and are reluctant to take it, are you and your running mate, Senator Harris, contributing to that fear? ... She said that public health experts quote, "Will be muzzled, will be suppressed."	Chris Wallace	Joe Biden	Coronavirus
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Okay. When it comes to how the virus has been handled so far, the two of you have taken very different approaches, and this is going to affect how the virus is handled going forward by whichever of you ends up becoming the next president. I want to quickly go through several of those. Reopenings. Vice President Biden, you have been much more reluctant than President Trump about reopening the economy and schools. Why, sir?	Chris Wallace	Joe Biden	Coronavirus
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	President Trump, you have begun to increasingly question the effectiveness of masks as a disease preventer. And in fact, recently you have cited the issue of waiters touching their masks and touching plates. Are you questioning the efficacy of masks?	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	I want to ask you both about one last subject because your different approaches has even affected the way that you have campaigned. President Trump, you're holding large rallies with crowds packed together, thousands of people. ... Vice President Biden, you are holding much smaller events with- ... why are you holding the big rallies? Why are you not? You go first, sir.	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump, Joe Biden	Coronavirus

<b>Debate Number — Location — Date — Sponsors</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Asker</b>	<b>To Whom The Question was Directed</b>	<b>Question Topic</b>
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	The economy is, I think it's fair to say, recovering faster than expected from the shutdown ... in the second quarter. The unemployment rate fell to 8.4% last month. The Federal Reserve says the hit to growth, which is going to be there, is not going to be nearly as big as they had expected. President Trump, you say we are in a V-shaped recovery. Vice President Biden, you say it's more of a K-shape. What difference does that mean to the American people in terms of the economy? President Trump, in this segment you go first. ... All right, your two minutes sir. We're now moved to you. As I said, posing the question the president says it's a V-shape recovery, you say it's a K-shaped recovery. What's the difference?	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump, Joe Biden	Economy
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Gentlemen, we're going to get to your economic plans going forward in a moment, but first, Mr. President, as you well know, there's a new report that in 2016, the year you were elected president, and 2017, your first year as president, that you paid \$750 a year in federal income tax each of those years. I know that you pay a lot of other taxes, but I'm asking you this specific question. Is it true that you paid \$750 in federal income taxes each of those two years?	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump	Electability
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Mr. President, we're talking about the economy. I'd like to ask you about your plans going forward because Mr. Vice President, your economic plan ... if you were to be elected president focuses a lot on big government, big taxes, big spending. I want to focus first on the taxes. You propose more than \$4 trillion over a decade in new taxes on individuals making more than \$400,000 a year and on corporations. President Trump says that that kind of an increase in taxes is going to hurt the economy as it's just coming out of a recession.	Chris Wallace	Joe Biden	Economy
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Mr. President, let me pick up on that. You would continue your free market approach, lower taxes, more deregulation, correct? You talk about the economy booming. It turns out that in Obama's final three years as president more jobs were created, a million and a half more jobs, than in the first three years of your presidency.	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump	Economy
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	President Trump, you have often said that you believe you will have done more for Black Americans than any president with the possible exception of Abraham Lincoln. ... My question for the two of you, is why should voters trust you rather than your opponent to deal with the race issues facing this country over the next four years? Vice President Biden, you go first.	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump, Joe Biden	Social issues
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	All right. I want to return to the question of race. Vice President Biden, after the grand jury in the Breonna Taylor case decided not to charge any of the police with homicide, you said it raises the question, "Whether justice could be equally applied in America." Do you believe that there is a separate but unequal system of justice for Blacks in this country?	Chris Wallace	Joe Biden	Social issues

Debate Number — Location — Date — Sponsors	Question	Asker	To Whom The Question was Directed	Question Topic
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	President Trump, I'd like to continue with the issue of race. I promise we're going to get to the issue of law and order in a moment. This month, your administration directed federal agencies to end racial sensitivity training that addresses white privilege or critical race theory. Why did you decide to do that, to end racial sensitivity training? And do you believe that there is systemic racism in this country, sir?	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump	Social issues
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	There has been a dramatic increase in homicides in America this summer particularly, and you often blame that on democratic mayors and democratic governors. But in fact, there have been equivalent spikes in Republican led cities, like Tulsa and Fort Worth. So the question is, is this really a party issue?	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump	Social issues
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	I do want to talk about this issue of law and order though. And, in the joint recommendation that came from the Biden-Bernie Sanders task force, you talked about quote re-imagining policing. First of all, what does re-imagining policing mean and do you support? If I might finish the question, what does re-imagining policing mean and do you support the Black Lives Matter call for community control of policing?	Chris Wallace	Joe Biden	Social issues
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	And I want to get to another subject, which is the issue of protests in many cities that have turned violent in Portland, Oregon, especially we had more than a 100 straight days of protests, which I think you would agree, you talk about peaceful protests. Many of those turned into riots. Mr. Vice-president you say that people who commit crimes should be held accountable. The question I have though is as the democratic nominee, and earlier tonight, you said that you are the Democratic Party right now, have you ever called the Democratic Mayor of Portland or the Democratic Governor of Oregon and said, "Hey, you got to stop this, bring in the National Guard, do whatever it takes, but you'd stop the days and months of violence in Portland."	Chris Wallace	Joe Biden	Social issues
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	You have repeatedly criticized the vice president for not specifically calling out Antifa and other left wing extremist groups. But are you willing tonight to condemn white supremacists and militia group and to say that they need to stand down and not add to the violence in a number of these cities as we saw in Kenosha and as we've seen in Portland.	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump	Social issues
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	When the president seeks a second term, it is generally a referendum on his record but vice president Biden, you'd like to quote one of your dad's sayings, which is don't compare me to the almighty, compare me to the alternative. And in this case sir you are the alternative. Looking at both of your records, I'm going to ask each of you. Why should voters elect you president over your opponent in this segment, President Trump you'll go first, two minutes.	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump, Joe Biden	Electability

<b>Debate Number — Location — Date — Sponsors</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Asker</b>	<b>To Whom The Question was Directed</b>	<b>Question Topic</b>
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	The forest fires in the West are raging now. They have burned millions of acres. They have displaced hundreds of thousands of people. When state officials there blamed the fires on climate change. Mr. President, you said, I don't think the science knows. Over your four years, you have pulled the US out of the Paris Climate Accord. You have rolled back a number of Obama Environmental records, what do you believe about the science of climate change and what will you do in the next four years to confront it?	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump	Energy/ Environment/ Climate change
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	All right, Vice President Biden. I'd like you to respond to the president's climate change record but I also want to ask you about a concern. You propose \$2 trillion in green jobs. You talk about new limits, not abolishing, but new limits on fracking. Ending the use of fossil fuels to generate electricity by 2035 and zero none admission of greenhouse gases by 2050. The president says a lot of these things would tank the economy and cost millions of jobs. ... So, do you support the Green New Deal?	Chris Wallace	Joe Biden	Energy/ Environment/ Climate change
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	All right, gentlemen, final segment, election integrity. As we meet tonight, millions of Americans are receiving mail-in ballots or going to vote early. How confident should we be that this will be a fair election, and what are you prepared to do over the next five plus weeks? Because it will not only be to election day, but also counting some mail-in ballots after election day. What are you prepared to do to reassure the American people that the next president will be the legitimate winner of this election. In this final segment, Mr. Vice President, you go first.	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump, Joe Biden	Electability
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	You have been charting for months that mail-in balloting is going to be a disaster. You say it's rigged ... that it's going to lead to fraud. But in 2018, in the last midterm election, 31 million people voted mail-in voting. That was more than a quarter of all the voters that year, cast their ballots by mail. Now that millions of mail-in ballots have gone out, what are you going to do about it? And are you counting on the Supreme Court, including a Justice Barrett, to settle any dispute?	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump	Judicial system
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Vice President Biden, the biggest problem, in fact, over the years with mail-in voting has not been fraud, historically. It has been that sizable numbers, sometimes hundreds of thousands of ballots are thrown out because they have not been properly filled out, or there is some other irregularity, or they missed ... the deadline. So the question I have is, are you concerned that the Supreme Court with a Justice Barrett will settle any dispute?	Chris Wallace	Joe Biden	Judicial system
1 — Cleveland, OH — September 29, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	In eight states, ... election workers are prohibited, currently by law, eight states, from even beginning to process ballots, even take them out of the envelopes and flatten them until election day. That means that it's likely, because there's going to be a huge increase in mail-in balloting, that we are not going to know on election night who the winner is, that it could be days. It could be weeks- until we find out who the new president is. First for you, sir. Finally, for the vice president, and I hope neither of you will interrupt the other. Will you urge your supporters to stay calm during this extended period, not to engage in any civil unrest? And will you pledge tonight that you will not declare victory until the election has been independently certified?	Chris Wallace	Donald Trump, Joe Biden	Electability

Debate Number— Location— Date— Sponsors	Question	Asker	To Whom The Question was Directed	Question Topic
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	These are tumultuous times, but we can and will have a respectful exchange about the big issues facing our nation. Let's begin with the ongoing pandemic that has cost our country so much. Senator Harris, the coronavirus is not under control. Over the past week, Johns Hopkins reports that 39 states have had more COVID cases over the past seven days than in the week before. Nine States have set new records. Even if a vaccine is released soon, the next administration will face hard choices. What would a Biden administration do in January and February that a Trump administration wouldn't do? Would you impose new lockdowns for businesses and schools and hotspots, a federal mandate to wear masks? You have two minutes to respond without interruption.	Susan Page	Kamala Harris	Coronavirus
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Vice President Pence, more than 210,000 Americans have died of COVID-19 since February. The US death toll, as a percentage of our population, is higher than that of almost every other wealthy nation on Earth. For instance, our death rate is two and a half times that of Canada, next door. You had the administration's coronavirus task force. Why is the US death toll, as a percentage of our population, higher than that of almost every other wealthy country? And you have two minutes to respond without interruption.	Susan Page	Mike Pence	Coronavirus
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Vice President Pence, you were in the front row in a Rose Garden event 11 days ago, at what seems to have been a super spreader event for senior administration and congressional officials. No social distancing, few masks, and now a cluster of coronavirus cases among those who were there. How can you expect Americans to follow the administration's safety guidelines to protect themselves from COVID when you at the White House have not been doing so?	Susan Page	Mike Pence	Coronavirus
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	For life to get back to normal, Dr. Anthony Fauci and other experts say that most of the people who can be vaccinated need to be vaccinated. But half of Americans now say they wouldn't take a vaccine if it was released now. If the Trump administration approves a vaccine before or after the election, should Americans take it, and would you take it?	Susan Page	Kamala Harris	Coronavirus

Debate Number— Location— Date— Sponsors	Question	Asker	To Whom The Question was Directed	Question Topic
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Vice President Pence, there've been a lot of repercussions from this pandemic. In recent days, the President's diagnosis of COVID-19 has underscored the importance of the job that you hold and that you are seeking. That's our second topic tonight. It's the role of the Vice President. One of you will make history on January 20th. You will be the Vice President to the oldest President the United States has ever had. Donald Trump will be 74 years old on inauguration day. Joe Biden will be 78 years old. That already has raised concerns among some voters, concerns that have been sharpened by President Trump's hospitalization in recent days. Vice President Pence, have you had a conversation or reached an agreement with President Trump about safeguards or procedures when it comes to the issue of presidential disability? And if not, do you think you should? You have two minutes without interruption. ... Senator Harris, let me ask you the same question that I asked Vice President Pence, which is, have you had a conversation or reached an agreement with Vice President Biden about safeguards or procedures when it comes to the issue of presidential disability? And if not, and if you win the election next month, do you think you should? You have two minutes uninterrupted.	Susan Page	Mike Pence, Kamala Harris	Electability
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Neither President Trump, nor Vice President Biden has released a sort of detailed health information that had become the modern norm until the 2016 election. And in recent days, President Trump's doctors have given misleading answers, or refused to answer basic questions about his health. And my question to each of you in turn is, is this information voters deserve to know? Vice President Pence, would you like to go first? ... Thank you, Vice President. I want to give Senator Harris a chance to respond to the same question I asked, which is, do voters have a right to know more detailed health information about presidential candidates and especially about presidents, especially when they're facing some kind of challenge?	Susan Page	Mike Pence, Kamala Harris	Electability
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	This has been another aspect of life for Americans, it's been so affected by this coronavirus. We have a jobs crisis brewing. On Friday, we learned that the unemployment rate had declined to seven point nine percent in September, but the job growth had stalled. And that was before the latest round of layoffs and furloughs in the airline industry, at Disney, and elsewhere. Hundreds of thousands of discouraged workers have stopped looking for work. Nearly 11 million jobs that existed at the beginning of the year haven't been replaced. Those hardest hit include Latinos, Blacks, and women. Senator Harris, the Biden, Harris campaign has proposed new programs to boost the economy. And you would pay for that new spending by raising four trillion dollars in taxes on wealthy individuals and corporations. Some economists warn that could curb entrepreneurial ventures that fuel growth and create jobs. Would raising taxes put the recovery at risk? And you have two minutes to answer uninterrupted.	Susan Page	Kamala Harris	Economy
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Vice President Pence, your administration has been predicting a rapid and robust recovery, but the latest economic report suggests that's not happening. Should Americans be braced for an economic comeback that is going to take not months, but a year or more? You have two minutes to answer uninterrupted.	Susan Page	Mike Pence	Economy

Debate Number— Location— Date— Sponsors	Question	Asker	To Whom The Question was Directed	Question Topic
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Thank you very much Vice President Pence. Once again, you've provided the perfect segue to a new topic, which is climate change. And Vice President Pence, I'd like to pose the first question to you. This year, we've seen record-setting hurricanes in the South. Another one, Hurricane Delta, is now threatening the Gulf, and we have seen record-setting wildfires in the West. Do you believe as the scientific community has concluded, that man-made climate change has made wildfires bigger, hotter, and more deadly and have made hurricanes wetter, slower and more damaging? You have two minutes uninterrupted.	Susan Page	Mike Pence	Energy/ Environment/ Climate Change
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Senator Harris, as the Vice President mentioned, you co-sponsored the Green New Deal in Congress, but Vice President Biden said in last week's debate that he does not support the Green New Deal. But if you look at the Biden-Harris campaign website, it describes the Green New Deal as a crucial framework. What exactly would be the stance of a Biden-Harris administration toward the Green New Deal? You have two minutes uninterrupted.	Susan Page	Kamala Harris	Energy/ Environment/ Climate Change
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Senator Harris just said that climate change is an existential threat. Vice President Pence, do you believe that climate change poses an existential threat?	Susan Page	Mike Pence	Energy/ Environment/ Climate Change
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	I'd like to talk about China. We have as our next topic, we have no more complicated or consequential foreign relationship than the one with China. It is a huge market for American agricultural goods. It's a potential partner in dealing with climate change in North Korea and in a video tonight, President Trump again, blamed it for the Coronavirus saying China will pay. Vice President Pence, how would you describe our fundamental relationship with China? Competitors? Adversaries? Enemies? You have two minutes. ... Senator Harris, let me ask you the same question that I asked the Vice President. How would you describe our fundamental relationship with China? Are we competitors? Adversaries? Enemies? You'll have two minutes uninterrupted.	Susan Page	Mike Pence, Kamala Harris	Foreign policy
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Senator Harris, we've seen changes in the role of the United States in terms of global leadership over the past four years. And of course times do change. What's your definition? We've seen strains with China, of course, as the vice president mentioned, we've seen strange with our traditional allies in NATO and elsewhere. What is your definition of the role of American leadership in 2020?	Susan Page	Kamala Harris	Foreign policy

Debate Number— Location— Date— Sponsors	Question	Asker	To Whom The Question was Directed	Question Topic
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	I want to go ahead and move to the next topic, which is an important one as the last topic was, and that is the Supreme Court. On Monday, the Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to open hearings on Amy Coney Barrett’s nomination to the Supreme court. Senator Harris, you’ll be there as a member of the committee. Her confirmation would submit the court’s conservative majority and make it likely open to more abortion restrictions, even to overturning the landmark Roe V Wade ruling. Access to abortion would then be up to the States. Vice President Pence, you’re the former governor of Indiana. If Roe V Wade is overturned, what would you want Indiana to do? Would you want your home state to ban all abortions? You have two minutes uninterrupted.	Susan Page	Mike Pence	Social issues
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Thank you, Vice President Pence. Thank you. Senator Harris, you’re the Senator from and former Attorney General of California. So, let me ask you a parallel question to the one I posed to the Vice President. If Roe V Wade is overturned, what would you want California to do? Would you want your home state to enact no restrictions on access to abortion? And you have two minutes uninterrupted.	Susan Page	Kamala Harris	Social issues
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	You’ve mentioned earlier, Vice President Pence, that the President was committed to maintaining protections for people with pre-existing conditions, but you do have this court case that you are supporting, your administration supporting that would strike down the Affordable Care Act. The president says, President Trump says that he’s going to protect people with preexisting conditions, but he has not explained how he would do that, and that was one of the toughest nuts to crack when they were passing the Affordable Care Act. So, tell us specifically, how would your administration protect Americans with preexisting conditions to have access to affordable insurance if the Affordable Care Act is struck down?	Susan Page	Mike Pence	Health care
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	In March, Breonna Taylor, a 26 year old emergency room technician in Louisville was shot and killed after police officers executing a search warrant in an aquatics investigation, broke into her apartment. The police said they identified themselves. Taylor’s boyfriend said he didn’t hear them do that. He used a gun registered to him to fire a shot, which wounded an officer. The officers then fired more than 20 rounds into the apartment. They say they were acting in self-defense. None of them have been indicted in connection with her death. Senator Harris, in the case of Breonna Taylor was justice done? You have two minutes. ... Thank you, Senator Harris. Vice President Pence, let me pose the same question to you. In the case of Breonna Taylor, was justice done? You have two minutes uninterrupted.	Susan Page	Kamala Harris, Mike Pence	Social issues
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Thank you, Senator Harris. And I’d like you to respond first to the question on our final topic, the election itself. President Trump has several times refused to commit himself to a peaceful transfer of power after the election. If your ticket wins and President Trump refuses to accept a peaceful transfer of power, what steps would you and Vice President Biden then take? What would happen next? You have two minutes.	Susan Page	Kamala Harris	Electability

Debate Number — Location — Date — Sponsors	Question	Asker	To Whom The Question was Directed	Question Topic
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	Vice President Pence, President Trump has several times refused to commit himself to a peaceful transfer of power after the election. If Vice President Biden is declared the winner and President Trump refuses to accept a peaceful transfer of power, what would be your role and responsibility as Vice President? What would you personally do? You have two minutes.	Susan Page	Mike Pence	Electability
2 — Salt Lake City, UT — October 7, 2020 — Commission on Presidential Debates	I've written all the questions that I've asked tonight, but for the final question of the debate, I'd like to read a question that someone else wrote. The Utah Debate Commission asked students in the state to write essays about what they would like to ask you. And I want to close tonight's debate with the question posed by Brecklin Brown. She's an eighth grader at Springville Junior High in Springville, Utah. And here's what she wrote. "When I watch the news, all I see is arguing between Democrats and Republicans. When I watch the news, all I see is citizen fighting against citizen. When I watch the news, all I see are two candidates from opposing parties trying to tear each other down. If our leaders can't get along, how are the citizens supposed to get along?" And then she added, "Your examples could make all the difference to bring us together." So to each of you in turn, I'd like you to take one minute and respond to Brecklin. Vice President Pence, you have one minute. ... Thank you, Vice President. Senator Harris, what would you say to Brecklin?	Susan Page	Mike Pence, Kamala Harris	Social issues
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	Mr. Vice President, every day, my wife and I are in disbelief at the lack of coordinated federal action on COVID-19. We know that your administration would follow the science. My question for you is two parts. First, looking backwards to when this country first became aware of COVID-19, what would following the science have meant in terms of actual policy? And then, looking forward, what would your administration do in terms of following the science with real concrete policies that haven't been done by the current administration?	Voter	Joe Biden	Coronavirus
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	Mr. Vice President, before you go to the future, can I follow back on looking back for just a little bit? You did have an op-ed in January where you warned of the seriousness of the pandemic. But there's no record of you calling for social distancing, limited social gatherings, mandatory mask --	George Stephanopoulos	Joe Biden	Coronavirus
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	Let's look forward a little bit. You said that you would lock down the economy only if the scientist said it was necessary. ... but I want to press you on that point there. ... You — you've been in the Oval Office for eight years with President Obama. He would always say that the only — only the hard to solve problems... (CROSSTALK) ... said what is most likely to happen is the scientist will disagree. The scientist will disagree with the economist. So the question is how are you going to decide this? Who are you going to listen to and how can you contain the pandemic without crushing the economy?	George Stephanopoulos	Joe Biden	Coronavirus
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	Hi, Mr. Biden. My question is about the coronavirus vaccine or potential. Senator Harris stated that she absolutely would not take a vaccine from President Trump. And of course we all know it's not President Trump that would create this vaccine, it would be doctors and scientist that presumably we all trust. So my question for you is if a vaccine were approved by -- between now and the end of the year, would you take it and if you were to become president, would you mandate that everyone has to take it?	Voter	Joe Biden	Coronavirus

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3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	And once we get it, if it is safe, if it is effective, will you mandate its use? ... How would you enforce that? ... And if they don't, fine?	George Stephanopoulos	Joe Biden	Coronavirus
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	Thank you, Mr. Vice President. You stated that anyone making less than \$400,000 will not see one single penny of their taxes raised... but also state that you are going to eliminate the Trump tax cuts. The Trump tax cuts reduces taxes for the majority of workers, I would argue not enough. What is your plan for either extending the tax cuts for the middle class or creating a new plan that further reduces those taxes?	Voter	Joe Biden	Economy
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	Mr. Vice President, let me press you on that. ... You're going to raise the corporate tax. You're going to raise taxes on the wealthy. Is it wise to do even that when the economy is as weak as it is right now? Another 900,000 people . . . So, there's not going to be any delay on the tax increases.	George Stephanopoulos	Joe Biden	Economy
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	Many people believe that the true swing demographic in this election will be Black voters under the age of 30. Not because they'll be voting for Trump, but because they won't vote at all. I myself have had this exact same conflict. So, my question for you then is, besides you ain't Black, what do you have to say to young Black voters who see voting for you as further participation in a system that continually fails to not protect them?	Voter	Joe Biden	Electability
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	What's your view on the crime bill that you wrote in 1994 which showed prejudice against minorities? Where do you stand today on that?	Voter	Joe Biden	Social issues
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	But in the meantime, an awful lot of people were jailed for minor drug crimes after the (inaudible). ... Was it a mistake to support it?	George Stephanopoulos	Joe Biden	Social issues
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	Let me ask another follow up on the crime bill. It also funded 100,000 police back in 1994. You've often said that more cops clearly mean less crime. Do you still believe that?	George Stephanopoulos	Joe Biden	Social issues
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	Right now, we have a systemic problem. How do you get the kind of policing, prevent the kind of policing --	George Stephanopoulos	Joe Biden	Social issues

Debate Number — Location — Date — Sponsors	Question	Asker	To Whom The Question was Directed	Question Topic
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	Our country's first Supreme Court gave its first ruling just two blocks from here from 1791 to 1800 and it's become more polarized since then. Merrick Garland didn't get a hearing for all of 2016 and Amy Coney Barrett's being pushed through at the last minute even though millions have already voted. So what do you think about ideas from people like Pete Buttigieg and others to put in place safeguards that will help insure more long term balance and stability? And what do you say to LGBTQ Americans and others who are very worried right now about erosions of their rights and our democracy as a whole?	Voter	Joe Biden	Electability
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	But the president is president for all four years, isn't he? ... How about the question of expanding the court? Here is what you said exactly one year ago tonight at a Democratic debate. You said: "I would not get into court packing. I would not pack the court." That's not what you're saying now. Is the nomination of Judge Barrett reason enough to rethink your position? ... So, you are still not a fan? ... What does that mean, how it's handled? How will that determine...	George Stephanopoulos	Joe Biden	Justice System
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	Well, right now, it looks like they're going to have a vote around Halloween. So, if they vote on it before the election, are you open to expanding the court?	George Stephanopoulos	Joe Biden	Justice System
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	You know, you have said so many times during the campaign, all throughout the course of your career, it's important to level with the American people. ... But don't voters have a right to know where you stand? ... So, will you come out with a clear position before Election Day?	George Stephanopoulos	Joe Biden	Justice System
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	Mr. Vice President, my father, Drew Lewis, served as Secretary of Transportation under President Ronald Reagan in his first term. And some of his closest allies and friends were Democrats, including House Speaker Tip O'Neill and Senator Ted Kennedy. Sadly, today we have highly partisan and dysfunctional governance. And I believe President Trump is primarily responsible for creating this toxic environment. As president, how will you avoid the temptation to exact revenge and instead take the high road and attempt to restore bipartisanship, civility, and honor to our democracy?	Voter	Joe Biden	Social issues
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	How about the question of political accountability? Is there some tension between that and bringing people together? You know, Robert Mueller laid out a lot of evidence of possible obstruction of justice by President Trump. What would a Biden Justice Department do with that evidence? ... So, you're not going to rule it in or rule it out?	George Stephanopoulos	Joe Biden	Presidential Priorities
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	In a 2012 report of the University of Pittsburgh's Institute of Politics fracking was discussed and its possible implications for the waterways for the Commonwealth to the Gulf. Fracking has made the population sick and killed wildlife in Southwest Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and small business development centers have already begun to transition people away from fossil fuels. What industries that are not harmful to human health and the environment are you planning for Southwest Pennsylvania and the nation?	Voter	Joe Biden	Energy/ Environment/ Climate

<b>Debate Number— Location— Date— Sponsors</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Asker</b>	<b>To Whom The Question was Directed</b>	<b>Question Topic</b>
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	Let me stick on fracking for a second. ... Now you said you don't want to ban fracking. As you know it's an important issue here in Pennsylvania, not everyone buys your denial. A member of the Boilermakers Local 154 Sean Stephanie was quoted in the New York Times today saying, "You can't have it both ways," he says, "You can't meet your goal to end fossil fuels without ending fracking," what do you say to people like Sean who doubt your denial because they think you want to keep that promise --	George Stephanopoulos	Joe Biden	Energy/ Environment/ Climate
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	So are you for it or against it? You say you're not for it but in your website it says you call it a crucial framework, the Green New Deal.	George Stephanopoulos	Joe Biden	Energy/ Environment/ Climate
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	So, peace is breaking out all over the world. Our troops are coming home. Serbia is talking to Kosovo. And the Arabs and Israelis are talking peace, which I believe is a modern day miracle what's going on. Does President Trump's foreign policy deserve some credit?	Voter	Joe Biden	Foreign policy
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	I'm the proud mom of two girls, 8 and 10. My youngest daughter is transgender. The Trump administration has attacked the rights of transgender people, banning them from military service, weakening non discrimination protections and even removing the word transgender from some government websites. How will you as president reverse this dangerous and discriminatory agenda and insure that the lives and rights of LGBTQ people are protected under U.S. law?	Voter	Joe Biden	Social issues
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	You say that you committed to entering this race after the events of Charlottesville in 2017. I assume that that feeling that prompted you to run will not go away once the results are determined. So, hypothetically, if you lose, how will you use your platform to urge President Donald Trump and those rallying behind him towards the ideals of a more perfect union?	Voter	Joe Biden	Presidential Priorities
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	Mr. Vice President, if you lose, what will that say to you about where America is today?	George Stephanopoulos	Joe Biden	Presidential Priorities
3A — Philadelphia, PA — October 15, 2020 — ABC News	Mr. Vice President, as you know, President Trump had a town hall meeting tonight, as well. During that town hall meeting, he was asked several times whether he took a COVID test the day of your last debate. You're supposed to have another debate a week from tonight. Just two quick questions. Do you expect that debate to happen? Will you demand that President Trump take a test that day and that it be negative before you debate?	George Stephanopoulos	Joe Biden	Other candidates
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Do you have any remaining symptoms from COVID?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus

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3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Did the doctors ever tell you that they saw pneumonia on your lung scans? ... Infected with?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Well, let's talk about testing because there's a little bit of a, I guess, confusion about this. And I think we can clear it up. ... Your first positive test was Thursday, October 1st, okay? When was your last negative test? When did you last remember having a negative test?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Did you test the day of the debate? ... Well, back to the debate, because the debate commission's rules, it was the honor system. ... Would be that you would come with a negative test. You say you don't know if you've got a test on the day of the debate? ... Did you take a test, though, on the day of the debate? ... So you did you take a test on the day of the debate, I guess is the bottom line?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Just to button it up, do you take a test every single day? ...Okay, And you don't know if you took a test the day of the debate?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Okay, good. I hopefully provided some clarity for folks. Let's talk about the event that was held at the White House on the Saturday before you tested positive. Subsequent to that, 13 people connected to that event tested positive. There was an outdoor reception, you've seen the pictures. There was an indoor reception. People were not wearing masks. My question to you is, at this point in the pandemic, knowing what we know, shouldn't you have known better? Shouldn't the White House know better than to hold an event like that? ... You can see people with a mask, though, right?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Well, there are pictures of Thom Tillis, actually with one of Judge Barrett's kids not wearing a mask. But you know Chris Christie, he was part of your debate prep. He was, I believe at that event. He came out tonight, he was sick, very sick. He was in the hospital for about a week. He came out tonight and said, "I was wrong not to wear a mask."	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Now, there was an event with the gold star families the day after the Supreme Court event. ... I going to say, you bring it up, you brought it up yourself. I mean, are you trying to suggest that? Do you believe a grieving military family gave you COVID?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Well, there's no one that says you can't be out there, but it's just about wearing masks and having... For example, your rallies. ... Your rallies don't require masks.	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	But as President, you're right. You want to be a leader, but you also are a leader and a setter of an example. And if you're not wearing a mask when your administration is saying, "Best practice right now is wear a mask," no, it's not foolproof. But that will-	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus

Debate Number— Location— Date— Sponsors	Question	Asker	To Whom The Question was Directed	Question Topic
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	But our death rate is worse than, well, not Spain, but those other countries. ... But we have per... Our deaths per capita is among the highest of all-	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coroanvirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	I want to pick up on something you just said. You said we're rounding the corner. 10% of the country approximately has had COVID. That means 80%-90%, 90%, let's do the math, is still vulnerable. There's been some talk, including from the White House lately that perhaps it approves of what's called herd immunity. That's where you basically just let young people and everybody gets sick. You try to protect the old people and those who are sick. And hopefully, it gets up to a certain level, and now we're all immune. ... So let's just be clear about it. It also means more deaths. Do you support herd immunity as a strategy? Essentially, just let people get sick?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	That 2 million figure, though, is if you literally did nothing. ... The 2 million figure is if you did absolutely nothing, it would be 2 million. The question is, should the deaths be better than 200,000, when-	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	We were supposed to, as mentioned, be watching you on a debate stage right now. We're not doing that, so let's clear up a few things from the last one. You were asked point blank to denounce white supremacy. In the moment, you didn't. You asked some follow up questions. "Who, specifically?" A couple of days later, on a different show- you denounced white supremacy. My question to you is- ... why does it seem like ... You did, two days later. ... Well, so this is a little bit of a dodge. ... Do you feel, it feels sometimes you're hesitant to do so, like you wait a beat?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Social issues
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	All right, while we're denouncing, let me ask you about QAnon. It is this theory that Democrats are a satanic pedophile ring and that you are the savior, of that. Now can you just, once and for all, state that that is completely not true, and ... disavow QAnon ... in its entirety? ... Republican Senator Ben Sasse said, quote, "QAnon is nuts and real leaders call conspiracy theories, conspiracy theories." ... Why not just say, it's crazy and not true? ... You do know. ... But there's not a Satanic pedophile cult being run by- ... You don't know that? Okay.	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Social issues
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Just this week, you retweeted to your 87 million followers, a conspiracy theory that Joe Biden orchestrated to have SEAL Team Six, the Navy SEAL Team Six, killed to cover up the fake death of Bin Laden. Now, why would you send a lie like that to your followers? ... You retweeted it. ... But- ... I don't get that, you're the President. You're not like, someone's crazy uncle who can just- retweet whatever. ... Well, the word is false.	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Presidential priorities?
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Okay. I'm glad you brought up the election, because I do want to ask about that. That's another kind of leftover item. A lot of people have asked you, will you accept a peaceful transfer of power? You have said, repeatedly, "The only way we lose this election is, if it is rigged." Now, that is simply not true. The fact is, either candidate can lose fair and square, without ballot fraud. ... So, will you accept the results of the election?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Electability

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3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	There is a handful... We could go all night, which we son't. ... But, we could go all night, one by one. A single case, a single day. You're talking about 150 million votes. Your own FBI director says, there is no evidence of widespread fraud.	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Electability
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Okay, but just... Those are case, there is no, there is in fact, no evidence of widespread fraud. And you are sowing doubt about our democracy. ... So why are you laying the groundwork for that, right now? ... It's like, if I go play tennis with my husband and I say, " My ankle is hurting right now."	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Electability
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	As you told Bob Woodward in February, was airborne and deadlier than the flu, why did you only put in place a travel ban from China, and not put in place other measures mitigating the spread of COVID-19, potentially saving tens of thousands of American lives?	Voter	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Can I ask you, did your National Security Advisor, on January 28th in the Oval Office, warn you that this would be the greatest national security risk of your administration? ... He didn't say it, or you don't remember?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Isn't there a middle ground [between panicking the country and acting earlier on coronavirus]?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Mr. Trump, as a frontline ER doctor, working through the coronavirus pandemic-I know firsthand, and I've seen that many hospitals throughout the United States, are suffering financial hardships. These economic effects are trickling down to the frontline workers. We are being... Across the country, frontline workers are being fired, they're being furloughed. Our salaries are being cut, and this is also happening another economic sectors as well, including the travel industry and hospitality. My question to you is, how are you going to get the United States back on track, both in terms of the economy and the pandemic?	Voter	Donald Trump	Economy
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Who was talking about that [unemployment rate]? ... I heard 20%	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Economy
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Mr. President, my parents are, as you heard, both frontline healthcare workers. And I've seen the physical and the mental toll that this pandemic has taken on them, firsthand. As well as the exacerbation of coronavirus, due to Americans who are not wearing masks or participating in social distancing. After contracting COVID-19 yourself, has your opinion changed on the importance of mask wearing?	Voter	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Who is, I don't get that, because it's just... All of your public health officials, your administration, they're in unison about this. ... They're all in unison about it. ... The University of Washington, which is, they have a model that your coronavirus task force relies on. Says that, if everyone wore a mask, you could cut expected deaths in half. 60,000 lives. Well, what does that mean?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus

Debate Number— Location— Date— Sponsors	Question	Asker	To Whom The Question was Directed	Question Topic
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	He's not an infectious disease expert. ... But I don't get it, because you have so much power and influence as president. And you could go to your... You could require it-... at your rallies, and you could say- "Everyone put on a mask right now." And the University of Washington says, you would save lives. ... At first [there was not a consensus on masks], but then everybody agreed. ... I looked at that report, it's not about mask wearing. It was neutral on the question of masks.	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Coronavirus
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	We're a hard-working middle-class family of four. My husband and I are both self-employed, and we have to get our own individual healthcare. As you know, healthcare costs have gone up considerably over the decades. And you had originally said you were going to repeal and replace Obamacare. What is your plan now in 2020 to make healthcare costs affordable for Americans like myself?	Voter	Donald Trump	Health care
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Mr. President, I got a follow-up pre-existing conditions. This is such a big issue for voters. ... In point of fact, your administration is about to go to the Supreme Court to argue to throw out the rest of Obamacare, which includes the protections for preexisting conditions. ... So your administration is in court right now, trying to get rid of that protection. ... You repealed, but you haven't replaced. ... Now you've been in office almost four years. ... You have both houses of Congress, Senate and House, in Republican hands, and there is not a replacement yet. ... But the promise was repeal and replace. ... But if you're successful in court... in November, those preexisting conditions, that promise will be gone.	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Health care
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Let me get to question number five. And you'll like this, he's stuck in traffic. His name is Joe White. He is registered as a Democrat. He says he's leaning toward Biden and voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016. And his question was a, a second stimulus payment has been broadly agreed upon by the Republicans and Democrats, and yet, now we're in October and it's still not passed. Why not use your office to make the second stimulus payment a separate targeted emergency relief package to help Americans weather the pandemic?	Voter, via Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Presidential priorities
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	People do not love the back and forth of Washington, but this has been a rollercoaster. Back in early October, you one day tweeted, "No more negotiations until after election day. I'm walking away." Then, I think the next couple of days you said, "Maybe we can do something targeted." Then you said, "I want a big, big bill." But then Senate Republicans said, "No, we're not for that." So you are the big deal-maker. How come this is so... You yourself had changed positions. ... But people's lives are hanging in the balance. ... [The stimulus is] what I was talking about. ... Senate Republicans with you, they're going to go big? ... Okay, because so far, they have not said a word.	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Presidential priorities
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	So corporate tax rates are a hot button issue and you have cut corporate tax rates. And your opponent, Joe Biden, is planning to raise them. A lot of Americans think that corporations don't pay their share of taxes and want to see those tax rates increase. What do you say to those Americans to maybe tell them why you want the corporate tax rate lower and why that helps them?	Voter	Donald Trump	Economy
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	On the subject of taxes, as you know, the New York times has obtained, it says years of your tax returns among other things, it says that you have debts of approximately \$421 million that you have personally guaranteed, and that will come due in the next four years. The question is, on behalf of voters, who do you owe \$421 million to?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Electability

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3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Well do I hear you right? It sounds like you're saying \$400 million isn't that much. But are you confirming that, yes, you do owe some \$400 million? ... That sounds like yes. ... Any foreign bank, any foreign entity?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Electability
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Well, here's the thing. You could clear this up tonight by just releasing your tax returns yourself. That's what I don't understand. I think people are just wondering, you're the only ... Yes, but the IRS said... You are. ... But the IRS says that doesn't stop you from releasing. ... But to be clear, there is no law or rule that prohibits you from releasing your tax returns.	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Electability
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	It also says that you've paid \$750 in taxes in the year you were elected. Is that true or not? ... But is that true? ... But is that all you paid? Because most people here probably paid more.	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Electability
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Four years ago, Senate leadership said it was inappropriate to push through a nominee in an election year, yet they fast-tracked your nominee for the Supreme Court just today. The question I have for you is, what do you say to the voter that thinks it's hypocritical to act in that manner and that they can't trust Republicans' word?	Voter	Donald Trump	Justice System
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	To the voter's point, I'll just say that in 2016, you were on another show, actually another morning show, and you were asked whether President Obama should nominate a Supreme Court Justice Merrick Garland. And you said, "I think the Senate should wait until the next president, and let the president pick." Now that was eight months before the election. This is three weeks before the election. ... So you have changed your position on this?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Justice System
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	You've mentioned that you would like to see Amy Coney Barrett confirmed to the Supreme Court in case any challenges come up in connection with the election. Do you expect her to rule for you? ... But for you? You think she would rule for you? ... Of course, she'll rule one way or the other, but-	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Justice System
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Good evening, Mr. President. I'm honored to be with you here tonight, sir. So thank you. I'm a pro-life millennial. And my question for you today is, if Roe v. Wade is ultimately overturned in the future, what protections would be put in place or kept for where the mother's life is in jeopardy in relation to high risk pregnancies?	Voter	Donald Trump	Social issues
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	But what is your preference? Because agreed, that's not something you should talk to the judge about. But would you like to see Roe versus Wade overturned? ... You're running as a pro-life Republican. Most pro-life Republicans would like to see Roe v. Wade overturned and abortion banned.	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Social issues
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	As the mother of a young male of color, I have reason to respect authority, not only because it's the right thing to do, but also out of fear that he may face profiling or be considered a criminal. As an educator, I've also had similar conversations with my high school students. Mr. President, what will you and your administration do to better prepare our law enforcement officers to work in collaboration with the communities that they serve and also to protect the lives of innocent Black and Latinos from police brutality and injustice?	Voter	Donald Trump	Social issues

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3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	As the daughter of immigrants to the United States who fled Eastern Europe due to religious persecution, the United States immigration policies are very personal for me. Surveys show that most Americans, and the majority of Republicans, support the Dreamers program. So my question for you, Mr. President, is if you are elected to a second term, do you expect to pursue your previous efforts to cut the DACA program? Why or why not?	Voter	Donald Trump	Immigration
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	Mr. President, in point of fact, the DACA program... Under your administration, no new applicants are allowed. And in fact, the DACA recipients now have to renew every year as opposed to every two years. So in fact, the DACA program has been curtailed by your administration. ... You have been promising this immigration bill since, well, at least July, when you told my colleague on Telemundo it was coming. But nothing's come yet.	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Immigration
3B — Miami, FL — October 15, 2020 — NBC News	I think about people sitting out there tonight. There are some who love you. Some of them are sitting right around here, and some who will never vote for you. But there are people in the middle. There are people who aren't sure. There are people who want to know why they should give you a second chance and how you might improve in a second term. 30 seconds. What would you say to them?	Savannah Guthrie	Donald Trump	Electability