**NEARLY A YEAR BEFORE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTON,
DO AMERICANS TRUST THE ELECTION PROCESS?**

**New C-SPAN/Ipsos Poll Finds These American Attitudes
about Presidential Election Fairness and Security:**

- **Barely half confident 2020 will be open and fair**
- **Majority believe foreign governments will pose threat and**
- **Less than a third believe federal government has done enough to stop foreign interference**

*(FOR RELEASE Thursday, October 10)* – In a new C-SPAN/Ipsos poll released today, just over half (53%) of Americans are confident that the 2020 presidential election will be open and fair.  The poll -- conducted September 23-30, 2019 -- shows a large partisan divide: While 72% of Republicans believe the election will be open and fair, only 39% of Democrats feel the same way.

The opinions of Independents likewise reflect partisan divide on election fairness and accuracy. Sixty percent of independents believe Democrats are committed to making sure U.S. election are fair and accurate, while only 48% of independents believe the same about Republicans.  Those numbers contribute to overall findings that 61% of Americans believe Democrats are committed to making sure elections are fair and accurate, while less than half (49%) share that same opinion about Republican commitment.

### Foreign Influence

A majority of Americans (58%) believe foreign governments pose a threat to U.S. elections. Again, a partisan split on this issue: that belief is more prevalent among Democrats (77%) and Independents (58%) than among Republicans (41%). And less than a third of Americans (31%) are confident that the government has done enough to protect elections from foreign interference.  Democrats (16%) and Independents (27%) tend to have less confidence in the government's actions than Republicans (54%).

"Right now, there is a crisis of confidence affecting our democracy," said Cliff Young, President, Ipsos. "By and large, the American people do not believe our elections are safe from foreign interference, and there is vast partisan disagreement over whether the next election will be open and fair. Whether this lack of confidence can be repaired before next November remains to be seen."

## Election Reform

The C-SPAN/Ipsos poll finds Americans support a variety of changes to voting and elections in the U.S., including:

- Requiring presidential candidates to release tax returns in order to appear on the ballot (53%), which has more support among Democrats (75%) and independents (57%) than it does among Republicans (26%)
- Requiring all citizens to show government-issued IDs to vote (78%), which has support among Republicans (93%), Democrats (67%), and independents (79%)
- Automatically registering all citizens to vote (55%), which has stronger support among Democrats (68%) and independents (56%) than it does among Republicans (37%)
- Allowing people convicted of felonies to vote after serving their sentences (53%), which also enjoys greater support among Democrats (67%) and independents (54%) than it does among Republicans (36%)

## More Key Findings

A majority of Americans (53%) have little/no confidence in the wisdom of the American people when it comes to making choices on Election Day. There is a partisan divide on the question: While a majority of Republicans (54%) do have confidence in voters, both Democrats (43%) and independents (45%) do not.

Meantime:

- Most Americans (55% -- and bipartisan) believe that states and localities with histories of voting discrimination should not be allowed to decide their own voting processes.
- Americans are split— with 34% percent agreeing and 34% disagreeing—as to whether in-person voter fraud is a problem in the U.S.
- Almost half of Americans (48%) believe that voter discrimination is a problem in the U.S.; a quarter (25%) do not.

And most Americans (60%) support abolishing the Electoral College and electing presidents by popular vote.

**GO DEEPER:**
See what the public thinks in the complete poll results. Click here.

**METHODOLOGY:**

This C-SPAN/Ipsos Poll was conducted September 23 to 30, 2019, by Ipsos Public Affairs KnowledgePanel® – a division of Ipsos. This poll is based on a nationally-representative probability

sample of 1,039 general population adults age 18 or older. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.4 percentage points

**ABOUT C-SPAN:**

C-SPAN, the public affairs network providing Americans with unfiltered access to congressional proceedings, was created in 1979 as a public service by the cable television industry and is now wholly funded through fees paid by cable and satellite companies that provide C-SPAN programming. C-SPAN connects with millions of Americans through its three commercial-free TV networks, C-SPAN Radio, the C-SPAN Radio App, C-SPAN.org and various social media platforms. C-SPAN's robust public affairs programming includes national and international public policy conversations; signature call-in programs such as its popular morning show – Washington Journal; book and author discussions on C-SPAN2's Book TV; a chronicle of America's past on C-SPAN3's American History TV and more. The network's video-rich website contains over 250,000 hours of searchable and shareable content, archived since 1987 for educational and reporting purpose. Learn more about C-SPAN. Engage with C-SPAN on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube and stay connected through weekly and daily newsletters.

**ABOUT IPSOS:**

Ipsos is a global independent market research company. Our team of 18,000 across 90 countries serves 5,000 clients and undertakes 70,000 different projects each year. Our polling practice is a non-partisan, objective, survey-based research practice made up of seasoned professionals. We conduct strategic research initiatives for a diverse number of American and international organizations, based not only on public opinion research, but elite stakeholder, corporate, and media opinion research.