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To: Interested Parties

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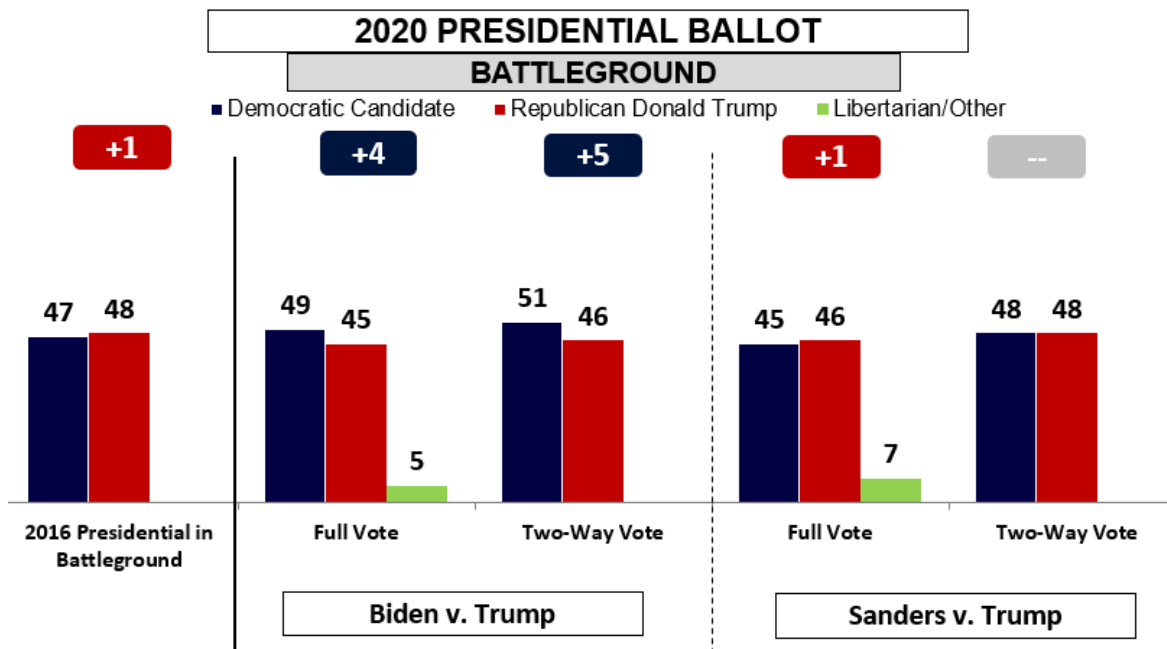
Rising Stakes and Electability: Presidential and Senate Battleground Poll

As the stakes in the US elections rise through each day of the pandemic, the country is sending a very clear signal about the Democratic nominee and electability. Democracy Corps conducted a 1,000-sample mostly cell-phone survey and a 2,900-sample web panel survey on behalf of the non-profit and non-partisan Center for Voter Information (CVI) in 16 battleground states.¹ Vice President Joe Biden probably wins the Electoral College, in a matchup against President Trump; Senator Bernie Sanders probably loses.

In 2016, Donald Trump won the battleground states by a (1.4) point margin and the blue wall states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania by 77,744 votes, giving him his Electoral College victory. Democratic primary voters determined, since South Carolina and Super Tuesday, that Joe Biden was the leader who would have the best chance of defeating Donald Trump. Our new VPC and CVI survey proves them right.

In a general election against Trump, Biden wins by 4 points, 49 to 45 percent — a 5-point swing from 2016 in the battleground. He also wins by 5 points when third party voters are asked to choose. Sanders, however, loses a general election against Trump by 1 point in the battleground, matching Hillary Clinton's performance in 2016.

¹ A phone poll of 1,000 registered voters in a 16-state Presidential and Senate battleground was conducted by phone March 9-16, 2020 from a voter-file sample. 67% of respondents were reached on cell phones in order to accurately reflect the American electorate. Margin of error is +/- 3 percentage points. A large-scale web survey of 2,900 registered voters in the 16-state battleground was conducted online March 10-17, 2020 from a voter-file sample. The states included Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Wisconsin

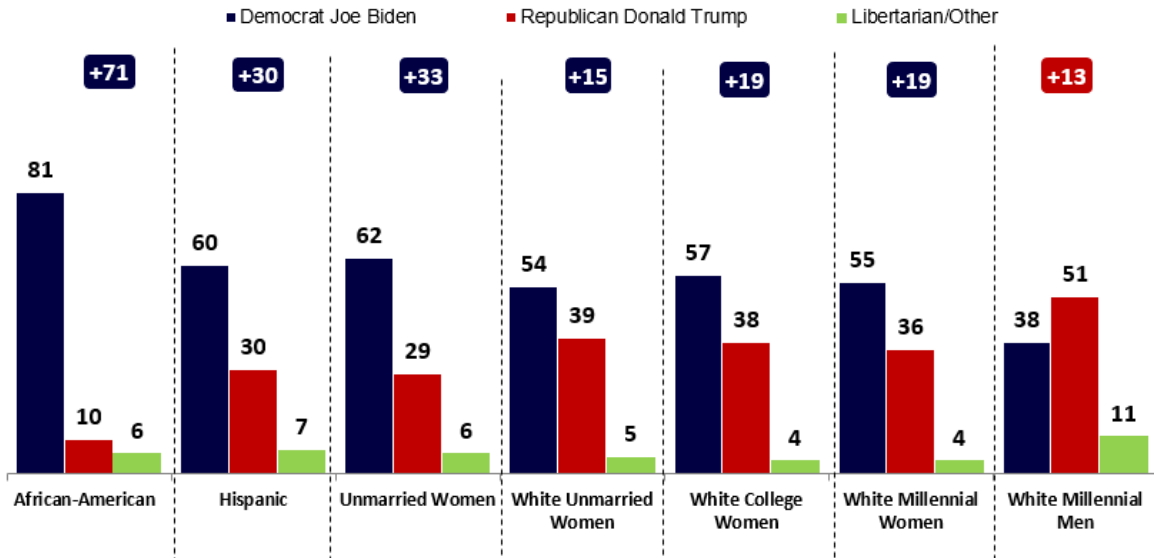


Critically, in the simulated election tested in the web panel for VPC, Joe Biden maintained his lead over Trump, but Sanders lost a further 4 points under attack from the Trump campaign. (We will be reporting on those results next week.)

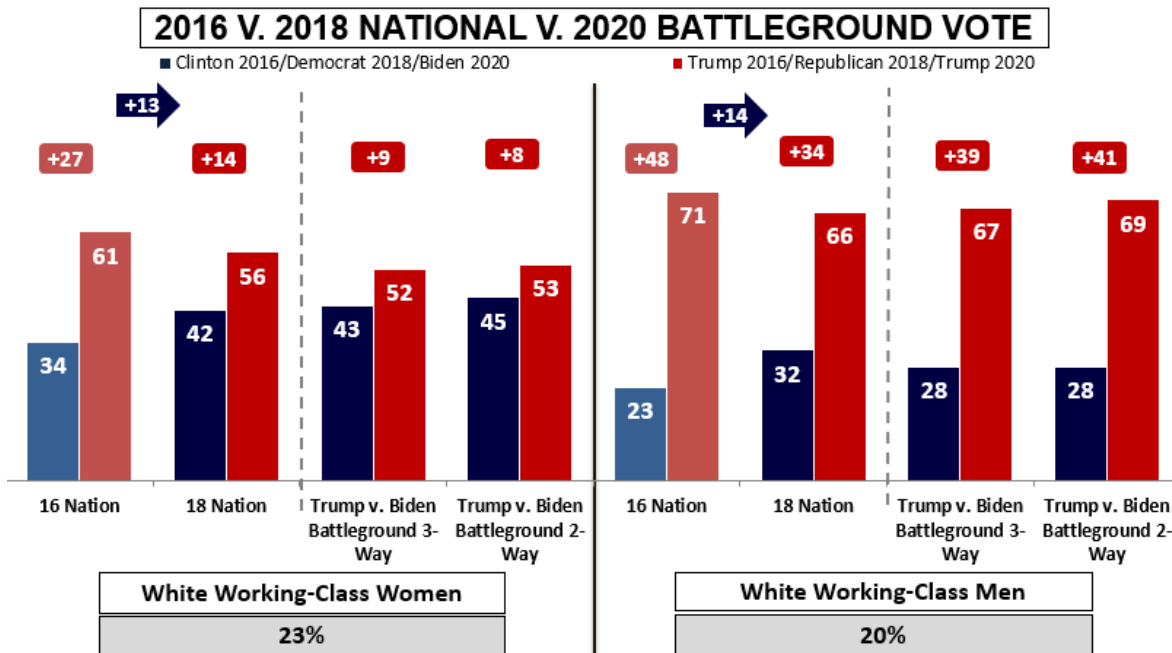
Whether Biden can build a comfortable lead depends on whether the Sanders voters can be consolidated. Two-thirds of Sanders voters are millennials and, in a result reminiscent of 2016, 11 percent of them vote for third party candidates in a Biden-Trump contest. Fully 94 percent of Biden voters vote for the Democratic nominee, compared to 86 percent of Sanders voters. So, how this primary closes is critically important.

Biden’s strong starting margin in the battleground is produced by the Rising American Electorate - particularly African Americans (71-point margin), unmarried women (33 points), and Hispanics (30 points). Biden wins with an unprecedented margin with white unmarried women, college women and millennial women. The engagement of the Rising American Electorate is priority number one.

Thinking about the election for President in 2020, who would you vote for if the candidates were -- (ROTATE TRUMP AND BIDEN, KEEP AMASH LAST) Democrat Joe Biden, Republican Donald Trump, and Libertarian candidate Justin Amash?



Biden’s lead is also produced by the growing gap between white working-class women and men. Trump’s 2016 victory was produced by a working-class revolt. Trump looks poised to continue garnering strong support from working class men, but working class women’s support for Trump has fallen sharply. Women are a majority of the white working class, and Trump won them by 27 points nationally in 2016. In the battleground, Trump will struggle to win them.



Biden has a 2-point lead (48 to 46 percent) in both the Midwest and blue wall predominantly white states, reminding us, we can’t be too careful about building support with working people, particularly in the industrial Midwest and Rust Belt.