



**School of Public &  
International Affairs**

*Survey Research Center*

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

**SPIA 2020 EARLY OUTLOOK GENERAL ELECTION POLL**

**CONDUCTED BY THE SPIA SURVEY RESEARCH CENTER**

**MARCH 4, 2020**

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## School of Public and International Affairs

*Department of Political Science*

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The SPIA Survey Research Center at the University of Georgia fielded a survey of likely 2020 general election voters in the state of Georgia from February 24<sup>th</sup> through March 2<sup>nd</sup>. This survey was designed to give an early look at the presidential and special U.S. Senate elections coming up in November.

In head-to-head matchups between Trump and Biden, Sanders, Bloomberg, and Warren the president maintained a statistically significant lead in Georgia over all four Democratic candidates (Buttigieg and Klobuchar were also included, but both withdrew from the race while our survey was still in the field). Trump had the greatest lead against Sanders (+11.5) and the smallest lead against Bloomberg (+8.1).

Trump 51.4% vs. Biden 43.1%  
Trump 52.4% vs. Sanders 40.9  
Trump 49.7% vs. Bloomberg 41.6%  
Trump 51.8% vs. Warren 41.6%

In the special U.S. Senate race to be held in November to fill the remainder of now retired Senator Isakson, Republican Congressman Doug Collins sat atop the leader board with 20.6% of the vote, followed closely behind by incumbent Senator Kelly Loeffler at 19.1%. The difference between these two candidates, at 1.5 points, is not statistically significant. In other words, Collins and Loeffler are statistically tied. The Democrat with the highest vote share in our poll in Matt Lieberman with 11.2%. The remaining votes (14.1%) were split among the other three Democratic candidates and one Independent in the race. It is clear, however, that many Georgia voters have yet to make up their minds concerning this contest. A plurality, 31.2%, indicated they were still undecided.

Finally, among likely general election voters in Georgia, a majority of those polled (53.5%) somewhat approved or strongly approved of Trump's job as president. On the other side, 45.8% somewhat approved or strongly disapproved of his performance.

**General Information:**

The SPIA Poll was conducted Feb. 24-March 2, 2020 and included a total of 1,117 likely general election voters in Georgia. Likely voters were respondents who had voted in the 2016 and/or the 2018 general election, who indicated they were currently registered to vote in Georgia, and were *definitely* or *probably* going to vote in the 2020 November election. The survey was administered by the School of Public and International Affairs Survey Research Center at the University of Georgia. Interviews were conducted in English. A dual-frame statewide random sample consisting of approximately 65% cell phone numbers and 35% landline numbers was obtained through L2 (L2 is a sampling vendor that maintains a database constructed from state voter registration lists. Through commercial sources, phone numbers have been appended to the individual records (registrants) that make up these lists). The survey results were weighted using iterative proportional raking in order to ensure the sample is representative of the 2020 general electorate in terms of race, sex, age, and education. The calculated margin of error for the total sample is +/-2.9 points at the 95% confidence level. This would mean that if 50% of respondents indicate a topline view on an issue, we can be 95% confident that the population's view on that issue is somewhere between 52.9% and 47.1%.

The formula used to determine if the difference in vote percentages between candidates is statistically significant is derived from Alastair J. Scott and George A.F. Seber. 1983. "Difference of Proportions from the Same Survey." *The American Statistician* 37(4): 319-320.

Question: If the election for president were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden, for whom would you vote?

|                  | Topline | Male | Female | White | Black | Other | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65+  | High School or less | Some College | BA   | Graduate |
|------------------|---------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|---------------------|--------------|------|----------|
| Trump            | 51.4    | 62.2 | 43.2   | 72.0  | 4.9   | 35.3  | 33.7  | 50.6  | 57.0  | 55.6 | 56.6                | 51.8         | 51.9 | 34.2     |
| Biden            | 43.1    | 31.2 | 52.2   | 23.3  | 89.8  | 51.5  | 52.1  | 44.9  | 38.5  | 42.4 | 37.9                | 41.9         | 43.5 | 61.0     |
| Neither (vol.)   | 3.5     | 4.1  | 3.2    | 3.0   | 3.9   | 8.8   | 11.7  | 2.6   | 2.6   | 0.4  | 4.3                 | 4.5          | 2.5  | 0.7      |
| Undecided (vol.) | 1.8     | 2.3  | 1.4    | 1.7   | 1.3   | 4.4   | 2.5   | 1.9   | 1.9   | 1.2  | 1.2                 | 1.9          | 1.7  | 4.1      |
| Refused          | 0.1     | 0.2  | 0.0    | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.4  | 0.0                 | 0.0          | 0.4  | 0.0      |

|                  | Under \$25,000 | \$25,000-49,999 | \$50,000-74,999 | \$75,000-99,000 | \$100,000-149,999 | Over \$150,000 | Democrat | Independent | Republican |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Trump            | 53.0           | 44.4            | 45.7            | 54.2            | 52.9              | 58.6           | 1.8      | 34.6        | 94.2       |
| Biden            | 43.9           | 50.9            | 43.1            | 39.9            | 44.7              | 39.3           | 93.8     | 45.2        | 3.8        |
| Neither (vol.)   | 0.0            | 4.1             | 6.4             | 4.6             | 1.5               | 1.0            | 3.0      | 18.3        | 0.4        |
| Undecided (vol.) | 3.0            | 0.6             | 4.8             | 1.3             | 1.0               | 1.0            | 1.4      | 1.9         | 1.6        |
| Refused          | 0.0            | 0.0             | 0.0             | 0.0             | 0.0               | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0         | 0.0        |

Notes: Entries are column percentages. Candidate names were randomly rotated.

Question: If the election for president were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Bernie Sanders, for whom would you vote?

|                  | Topline | Male | Female | White | Black | Other | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65+  | High School or less | Some College | BA   | Graduate |
|------------------|---------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|---------------------|--------------|------|----------|
| Trump            | 52.4    | 63.7 | 43.8   | 72.7  | 5.3   | 40.6  | 36.4  | 51.9  | 57.3  | 56.6 | 57.8                | 51.0         | 53.4 | 37.7     |
| Sanders          | 40.9    | 31.4 | 48.3   | 20.6  | 88.2  | 52.2  | 50.0  | 44.0  | 36.4  | 38.4 | 36.0                | 40.1         | 42.4 | 55.5     |
| Neither (vol.)   | 4.6     | 2.7  | 6.0    | 5.2   | 3.6   | 2.9   | 11.1  | 1.9   | 4.6   | 2.9  | 4.8                 | 6.4          | 2.1  | 4.1      |
| Undecided (vol.) | 2.0     | 2.1  | 1.9    | 1.3   | 3.0   | 4.3   | 2.5   | 2.2   | 1.7   | 1.7  | 1.4                 | 2.5          | 1.7  | 2.7      |
| Refused          | 0.1     | 0.2  | 0.0    | 0.1   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.4  | 0.0                 | 0.0          | 0.4  | 0.0      |

|                  | Under \$25,000 | \$25,000-49,999 | \$50,000-74,999 | \$75,000-99,000 | \$100,000-149,999 | Over \$150,000 | Democrat | Independent | Republican |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Trump            | 51.5           | 44.8            | 46.0            | 55.2            | 53.6              | 61.6           | 3.4      | 34.6        | 94.9       |
| Sanders          | 45.5           | 46.5            | 39.7            | 40.9            | 42.5              | 35.8           | 90.6     | 37.5        | 2.7        |
| Neither (vol.)   | 1.5            | 7.0             | 10.1            | 1.9             | 2.9               | 2.1            | 3.9      | 25.0        | 1.1        |
| Undecided (vol.) | 1.5            | 1.7             | 4.2             | 1.9             | 1.0               | 0.5            | 2.1      | 2.9         | 1.3        |
| Refused          | 0.0            | 0.0             | 0.0             | 0.0             | 0.0               | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0         | 0.0        |

Notes: Entries are column percentages. Candidate names were randomly rotated.

Question: If the election for president were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Michael Bloomberg, for whom would you vote?

|                  | Topline | Male | Female | White | Black | Other | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65+  | High School or less | Some College | BA   | Graduate |
|------------------|---------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|---------------------|--------------|------|----------|
| Trump            | 49.7    | 58.9 | 42.8   | 70.4  | 3.3   | 30.4  | 27.8  | 48.9  | 56.1  | 55.6 | 52.9                | 51.6         | 51.3 | 33.8     |
| Bloomberg        | 41.6    | 31.0 | 49.8   | 23.8  | 83.9  | 47.8  | 46.3  | 42.2  | 39.8  | 40.2 | 40.9                | 36.3         | 40.7 | 57.2     |
| Neither (vol.)   | 6.0     | 6.4  | 5.6    | 4.0   | 10.2  | 8.7   | 21.0  | 5.2   | 2.2   | 3.3  | 5.3                 | 8.9          | 4.7  | 4.1      |
| Undecided (vol.) | 2.6     | 3.5  | 1.9    | 1.6   | 2.6   | 13.0  | 4.9   | 3.7   | 1.9   | 0.8  | 1.0                 | 3.2          | 3.4  | 4.8      |
| Refused          | 0.1     | 0.2  | 0.0    | 0.1   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0  | 0.0                 | 0.0          | 0.0  | 0.0      |

|                  | Under \$25,000 | \$25,000-49,999 | \$50,000-74,999 | \$75,000-99,000 | \$100,000-149,999 | Over \$150,000 | Democrat | Independent | Republican |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Trump            | 45.5           | 44.8            | 46.0            | 52.3            | 53.4              | 52.4           | 2.5      | 28.6        | 92.0       |
| Bloomberg        | 47.0           | 46.5            | 39.6            | 42.5            | 39.3              | 44.0           | 87.2     | 42.9        | 6.6        |
| Neither (vol.)   | 4.5            | 5.8             | 11.2            | 3.3             | 5.8               | 1.6            | 8.2      | 22.9        | 0.5        |
| Undecided (vol.) | 3.0            | 2.9             | 3.2             | 2.0             | 1.5               | 2.1            | 2.1      | 5.7         | 0.9        |
| Refused          | 0.0            | 0.0             | 0.0             | 0.0             | 0.0               | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0         | 0.0        |

Notes: Entries are column percentages. Candidate names were randomly rotated.

Question: If the election for president were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Elizabeth Warren, for whom would you vote?

|                  | Topline | Male | Female | White | Black | Other | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65+  | High School or less | Some College | BA   | Graduate |
|------------------|---------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|---------------------|--------------|------|----------|
| Trump            | 51.8    | 61.5 | 44.4   | 72.6  | 3.9   | 37.7  | 33.7  | 51.7  | 56.7  | 56.8 | 56.6                | 50.8         | 53.4 | 36.8     |
| Warren           | 41.6    | 32.3 | 48.7   | 22.0  | 88.8  | 44.9  | 49.1  | 44.6  | 38.0  | 38.7 | 38.2                | 39.0         | 41.5 | 58.3     |
| Neither (vol.)   | 4.4     | 3.5  | 5.1    | 4.2   | 4.6   | 7.2   | 11.7  | 1.5   | 3.8   | 3.3  | 4.5                 | 6.7          | 2.5  | 2.1      |
| Undecided (vol.) | 2.1     | 2.5  | 1.7    | 1.1   | 2.6   | 10.1  | 5.5   | 2.2   | 1.4   | 0.8  | 0.7                 | 3.5          | 2.1  | 2.8      |
| Refused          | 0.1     | 0.2  | 0.0    | 0.1   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.4  | 0.0                 | 0.0          | 0.4  | 0.0      |

|                  | Under \$25,000 | \$25,000-49,999 | \$50,000-74,999 | \$75,000-99,000 | \$100,000-149,999 | Over \$150,000 | Democrat | Independent | Republican |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Trump            | 43.9           | 44.8            | 50.0            | 54.6            | 51.9              | 59.5           | 3.9      | 30.5        | 94.2       |
| Warren           | 53.0           | 45.9            | 38.3            | 42.1            | 44.2              | 37.9           | 88.5     | 44.8        | 4.2        |
| Neither (vol.)   | 1.5            | 6.4             | 8.5             | 1.3             | 2.9               | 2.1            | 4.6      | 21.9        | 0.7        |
| Undecided (vol.) | 1.5            | 2.9             | 3.2             | 2.0             | 1.0               | 0.5            | 2.1      | 2.9         | 0.9        |
| Refused          | 0.0            | 0.0             | 0.0             | 0.0             | 0.0               | 0.0            | 0.0      | 0.0         | 0.0        |

Notes: Entries are column percentages. Candidate names were randomly rotated.

Question: There will also be a special U.S. Senate election on the ballot this November to fill the vacancy created when Senator Isakson resigned. In this race candidates from all parties will run against one another. I'm going to read you a list of candidates who have announced they are running for this seat. Please tell me if this election were being held TODAY, for whom would you vote?

|                  | Topline | Male | Female | White | Black | Other | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65+  | High School or less | Some College | BA   | Graduate |
|------------------|---------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|---------------------|--------------|------|----------|
| (R) Collins      | 20.6    | 27.3 | 15.4   | 29.6  | 1.3   | 10.0  | 11.0  | 17.2  | 22.4  | 29.2 | 21.2                | 24.2         | 19.0 | 13.8     |
| (R) Loeffler     | 19.1    | 19.9 | 18.4   | 26.9  | 2.3   | 8.6   | 8.0   | 17.9  | 23.3  | 21.4 | 22.7                | 16.6         | 19.0 | 14.5     |
| (R) Johnson      | 3.5     | 2.7  | 4.1    | 3.0   | 5.2   | 1.4   | 10.4  | 1.5   | 2.4   | 2.5  | 5.5                 | 1.6          | 3.0  | 2.1      |
| (D) Lieberman    | 11.2    | 7.6  | 13.9   | 7.5   | 20.7  | 8.6   | 16.0  | 9.7   | 9.1   | 11.9 | 10.3                | 12.7         | 11.4 | 11.0     |
| (D) Tarver       | 3.5     | 2.7  | 4.0    | 1.7   | 8.5   | 0.0   | 2.5   | 4.9   | 3.1   | 3.7  | 3.3                 | 2.5          | 2.5  | 7.6      |
| (D) Warnock      | 6.2     | 4.3  | 7.6    | 2.3   | 14.8  | 10.0  | 6.1   | 4.1   | 8.4   | 5.3  | 5.0                 | 4.1          | 6.3  | 13.8     |
| (D) Winfield     | 2.6     | 3.3  | 2.2    | 1.1   | 5.6   | 7.1   | 3.1   | 4.9   | 2.6   | 0.0  | 2.9                 | 1.6          | 3.8  | 2.8      |
| (I) Bartell      | 1.9     | 2.5  | 1.4    | 1.7   | 1.0   | 7.1   | 4.9   | 1.9   | 0.5   | 2.5  | 1.9                 | 2.2          | 2.1  | 0.7      |
| Undecided (vol.) | 31.2    | 29.2 | 32.8   | 25.9  | 40.3  | 45.7  | 38.0  | 38.1  | 27.6  | 23.5 | 27.2                | 34.4         | 32.1 | 33.8     |
| Refused          | 0.3     | 0.6  | 0.2    | 0.3   | 0.3   | 1.4   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 0.5   | 0.0  | 0.0                 | 0.0          | 0.8  | 0.0      |



|                  | Under \$25,000 | \$25,000-49,999 | \$50,000-74,999 | \$75,000-99,000 | \$100,000-149,999 | Over \$150,000 | Democrat | Independent | Republican |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| (R) Collins      | 26.6           | 18.1            | 12.2            | 31.4            | 16.7              | 26.3           | 0.7      | 10.5        | 38.9       |
| (R) Loeffler     | 14.1           | 19.3            | 16.5            | 15.7            | 26.0              | 18.9           | 3.7      | 17.1        | 32.1       |
| (R) Johnson      | 0.0            | 0.0             | 4.8             | 1.3             | 9.3               | 2.6            | 3.2      | 0.0         | 4.6        |
| (D) Lieberman    | 9.4            | 14.6            | 16.5            | 7.8             | 6.4               | 11.1           | 22.8     | 19.0        | 0.5        |
| (D) Tarver       | 17.2           | 0.0             | 5.3             | 2.6             | 2.9               | 2.1            | 6.4      | 8.6         | 0.2        |
| (D) Warnock      | 4.7            | 3.5             | 6.9             | 11.1            | 2.9               | 9.5            | 15.1     | 2.9         | 0.0        |
| (D) Winfield     | 0.0            | 4.1             | 1.1             | 2.0             | 4.4               | 3.2            | 5.3      | 4.8         | 0.4        |
| (I) Bartell      | 1.6            | 0.6             | 2.7             | 2.0             | 4.4               | 0.5            | 0.9      | 8.6         | 1.5        |
| Undecided (vol.) | 26.6           | 39.2            | 34.0            | 26.1            | 27.0              | 25.3           | 41.8     | 28.6        | 21.9       |
| Refused          | 0.0            | 0.6             | 0.0             | 0.0             | 0.0               | 0.5            | 0.2      | 0.0         | 0.0        |

Note: Entries are column percentages. Candidate names were randomly rotated; candidates were identified with party label.

Question: Do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

|                     | Topline | Male | Female | White | Black | Other | 18-29 | 30-44 | 45-64 | 65+  | High School or less | Some College | BA   | Graduate |
|---------------------|---------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|---------------------|--------------|------|----------|
| Strongly approve    | 38.3    | 45.2 | 33.0   | 54.9  | 1.3   | 23.2  | 17.8  | 35.0  | 43.8  | 48.5 | 46.1                | 38.2         | 34.3 | 22.8     |
| Somewhat approve    | 15.2    | 19.1 | 12.2   | 18.5  | 8.3   | 10.1  | 19.6  | 19.9  | 14.2  | 7.9  | 11.2                | 18.8         | 19.1 | 12.4     |
| Somewhat disapprove | 7.1     | 6.2  | 7.8    | 5.7   | 9.9   | 10.1  | 16.0  | 6.4   | 5.0   | 5.8  | 5.7                 | 8.6          | 6.4  | 9.0      |
| Strongly disapprove | 38.8    | 28.1 | 46.9   | 20.8  | 80.2  | 50.7  | 44.8  | 38.0  | 36.8  | 37.8 | 36.3                | 34.1         | 40.3 | 54.5     |
| Don't know          | 0.7     | 1.4  | 0.2    | 0.3   | 0.3   | 5.8   | 1.8   | 0.8   | 0.2   | 0.0  | 0.7                 | 0.3          | 0.0  | 1.4      |

|                     | Under \$25,000 | \$25,000-49,999 | \$50,000-74,999 | \$75,000-99,000 | \$100,000-149,999 | Over \$150,000 | Democrat | Independent | Republican |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Strongly approve    | 42.4           | 38.0            | 38.3            | 42.1            | 34.5              | 38.7           | 2.1      | 17.1        | 71.5       |
| Somewhat approve    | 15.2           | 9.9             | 11.7            | 13.2            | 18.9              | 20.9           | 4.3      | 23.8        | 22.4       |
| Somewhat disapprove | 10.6           | 4.7             | 13.8            | 3.9             | 7.3               | 3.7            | 10.1     | 24.8        | 1.3        |
| Strongly disapprove | 31.8           | 47.4            | 35.1            | 40.8            | 39.3              | 36.1           | 83.3     | 34.3        | 4.6        |
| Don't know          | 0.0            | 0.0             | 1.1             | 0.0             | 0.0               | 0.5            | 0.2      | 0.0         | 0.2        |

Note: Entries are column percentages.

## DEMOGRAPHIC TOPLINES

|             | Percentage |
|-------------|------------|
| <b>Sex:</b> |            |
| Male        | 43.6       |
| Female      | 56.4       |

|              |      |
|--------------|------|
| <b>Race:</b> |      |
| White        | 66.6 |
| Black        | 27.2 |
| Other        | 6.2  |

|             |      |
|-------------|------|
| <b>Age:</b> |      |
| 18-29       | 15.0 |
| 30-44       | 24.6 |
| 45-64       | 38.2 |
| 65+         | 22.2 |

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| <b>Education:</b>   |      |
| High school or less | 37.6 |
| Some college        | 28.2 |
| BA/BS               | 21.2 |
| Graduate school     | 13.0 |

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| <b>Income:</b>      |      |
| Under \$25,000      | 6.7  |
| \$25,000-\$49,999   | 17.6 |
| \$50,000-\$74,999   | 19.3 |
| \$75,000-\$99,999   | 15.6 |
| \$100,000-\$149,000 | 21.2 |
| Over \$150,000      | 19.5 |

|                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| <b>Political Party:</b> |      |
| Democrat                | 40.1 |
| Independent             | 9.6  |
| Republican              | 50.3 |