



**Opinion Poll Report:**

**US Presidential Election**

**November 2020**

## Executive Summary

TRENDS Research & Advisory conducted an opinion poll on the United States presidential election 2020 in which 560 individuals belonging to different nationalities, age groups, and education levels participated. Following are the highlights of the results obtained.

- ✓ The majority of respondents were Arabs (66%), followed by other nationalities (34%).
- ✓ The percentage of respondents from both genders varied significantly, with males constituting 73% and females constituting 27%. This reflects the interest of both genders in knowing the US election results and their direct impact on the Middle East.
- ✓ Fifty-four percent of respondents had university degrees while 34% had higher education, reflecting the interest of well-educated groups in understanding the consequences of the US election on the Middle East. This also shows their keenness to understand the new administration's vision for dealing with the Muslim Brotherhood and other extremist groups in the Middle East.
- ✓ As many as 34% of respondents were in the age group of 40-49 years, 24% were 50+ years, 22% in the age group of 30-39 years, and 20% 18-29 years.
- ✓ Out of the total respondents, 70% were married and 27% unmarried.
- ✓ Responding to the **first question**, 94.5% of respondents from different nationalities, age groups, and education levels said they did not work for research centers but were interested in the US election.
- ✓ On the **second question**, 53% preferred Republican candidate Donald Trump while 44% preferred the Democratic Party nominee Joe Biden. The results could be attributed to Trump's policies during his first term, described as bold and realistic, and his efforts to find solutions to the various Middle East crises. On the other hand, Biden is not seen as presenting a new vision but seems to be pursuing former President Barak Obama's policies, especially concerning the Middle East.
- ✓ On the **third question**, related to the most critical issues influencing the US voters, the Covid-19 pandemic ranked first, with 37% of respondents, followed by economic issues (35%), personal traits of the candidates (18%), and the US foreign policy (10%). This indicates that economic issues usually represent the main concern for voters in the US, while interest in foreign policy is not among their top priorities. This has been a general feature in the history of the US presidential elections.
- ✓ In response to the **fourth question**, 64% expected a substantial change in the US policy toward the Middle East if Joe Biden wins, while 28% disagreed. This could be

attributed to the Democratic party's policies followed by former President Barak Obama toward the Middle East and North Africa.

- ✓ In the **fifth question**, among the issues that are expected to see significant change if Biden wins, the issue of Iran came first (55%), followed by peaceful settlement in the Middle East (20%), political Islam (19%), and Turkey (6%). The expected change in Biden's policies can be explained by his frequent criticism of Trump's foreign policy, particularly regarding Iran and his withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal. Biden supports the US's return to the deal and alleviating the sanctions imposed on Iran. At the same time, Biden follows the policies of former President Barak Obama toward political Islam groups, with the Muslim Brotherhood at the forefront.

**Introduction:**

Trends Research & Advisory Center conducted an opinion poll about the United States presidential Election 2020 in order to see the opinions of a sample of respondents on the subject. The poll contained the following questions:

- 1- Do you work for a research center?
- 2- Which candidate do you most prefer?
- 3- In your opinion, which of the following issues influences the US voters' decisions the most in November 2020 election?
- 4- Do you expect a significant change in the US policy toward the Middle East if the Democratic candidate Joe Biden wins?
- 5- Which of the following issues do you expect to see a significant change in the US policy toward them if Joe Biden wins?

The poll questionnaire was posted in both Arabic and English on the website of "Trends" Center for ten days in order to enable individuals to participate in it.

**Poll Objectives:**

The poll sought to:

- 1- Assess the respondents' most preferred candidate in the US election.
- 2- Understand the respondents' views on the issues impacting US voters' decisions the most.
- 3- Analyze the respondents' views on the changes that could result from a Joe Biden victory.
- 4- Gauge the respondents' opinion on the most critical issues the winner of this election will focus on.

**Data Collection and Polling Method:**

Given the precautionary measures to combat the spread of Covid-19, the research team used the electronic data collection method for the Opinion Poll. It digitized and coded the questions and posted them on the TRENDS website using approved electronic programs to ensure the accuracy of answers and the speed and ease of response.

**Poll Sample:****a- Sampling Method:**

The sample size contained 560 individuals contacted through databases available at the Center and its various social media platforms. Snowball sampling technique was also used wherein each individual contacted would, in turn, send the questionnaire link to their acquaintances to attract more responses.

**b- Sample Characteristics:**

The sample was representative of various age groups, gender, and nationalities.

**c- Error Margin:**

The margin of error was small, falling within the acceptable range in electronic surveys. This was taken into account in the analysis process to ensure the accuracy of the results.

**d- Level of Response:**

The level of response to the poll was high, thanks to the electronic data collection method used. However, the following points were noted:

- 1 -The response of Arab nationalities was higher than that of other nationalities.

2- The response to the English version of the questionnaire was low. This might be because Arabic speakers preferred to answer the Arabic version.

**Polling Questions:**

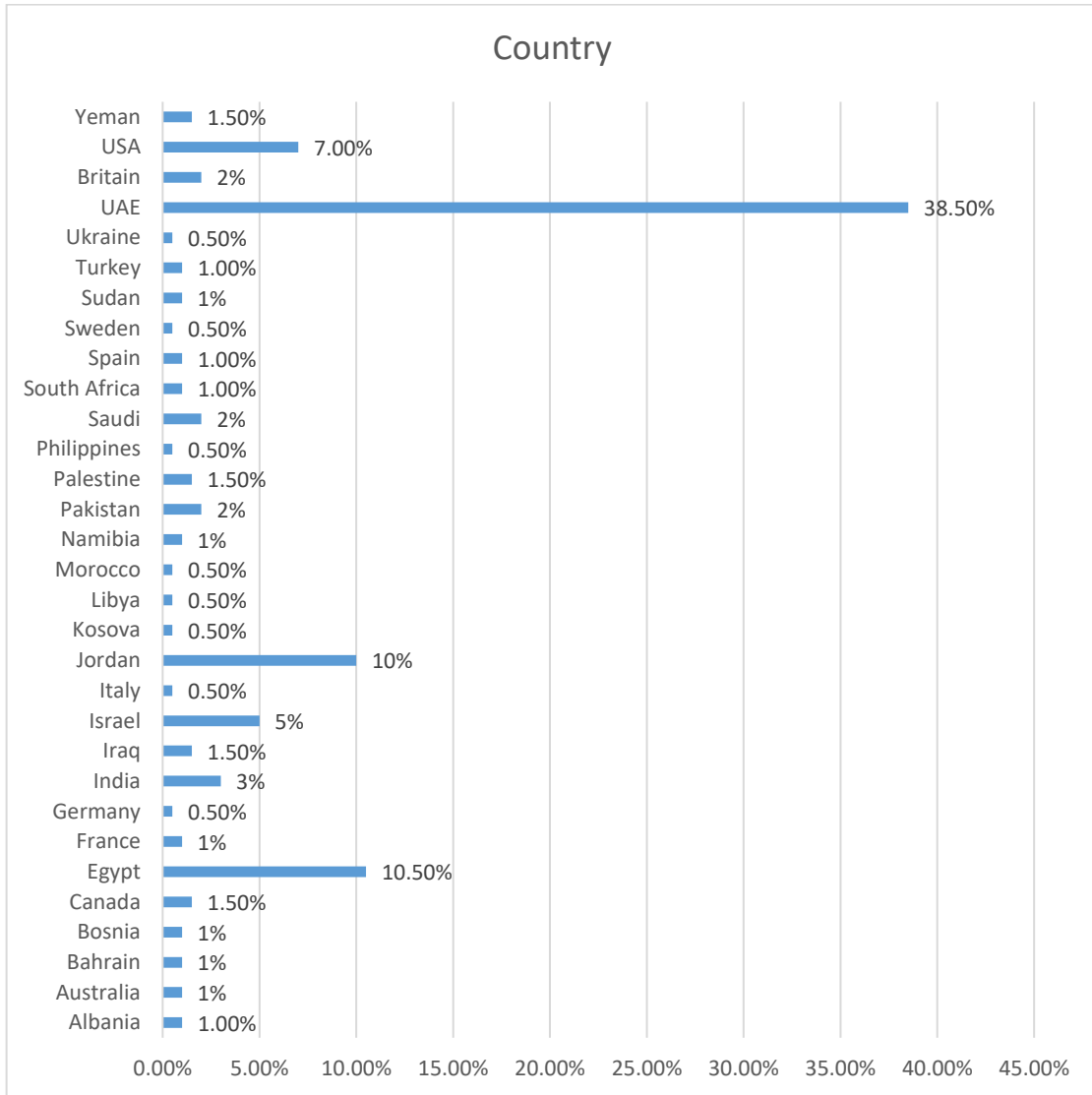
Five questions were framed to gauge the respondents' knowledge and awareness of the importance of the US presidential election 2020.

**Poll Duration:**

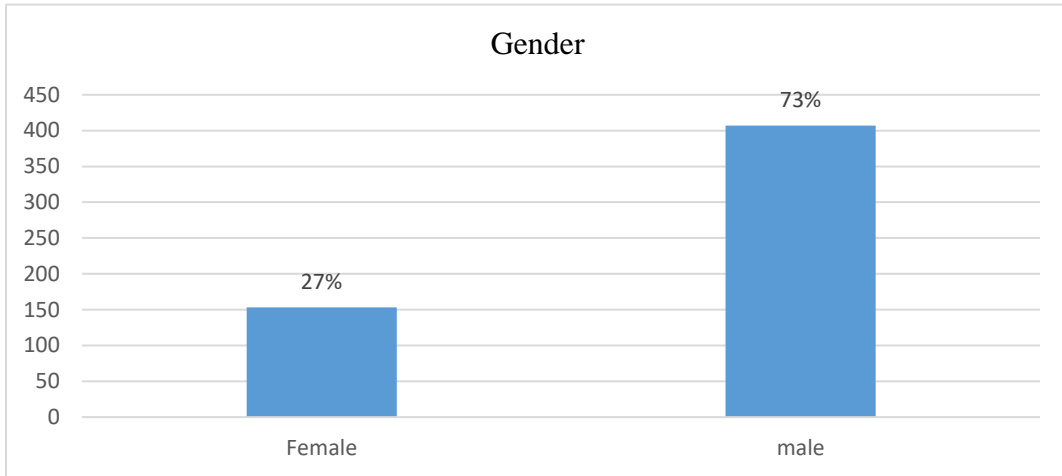
**a- Data Collection Duration:** Data collection took 10 days (October 21-31, 2020).

**b- Analysis Duration and Report Preparation:** Electronically collected data was entered into the statistical analysis programs approved for use at the TRENDS Research & Advisory. Statistical analysis was done to analyze the data and arrive at the results. The analysis process and writing of the report were completed on November 02, 2020.

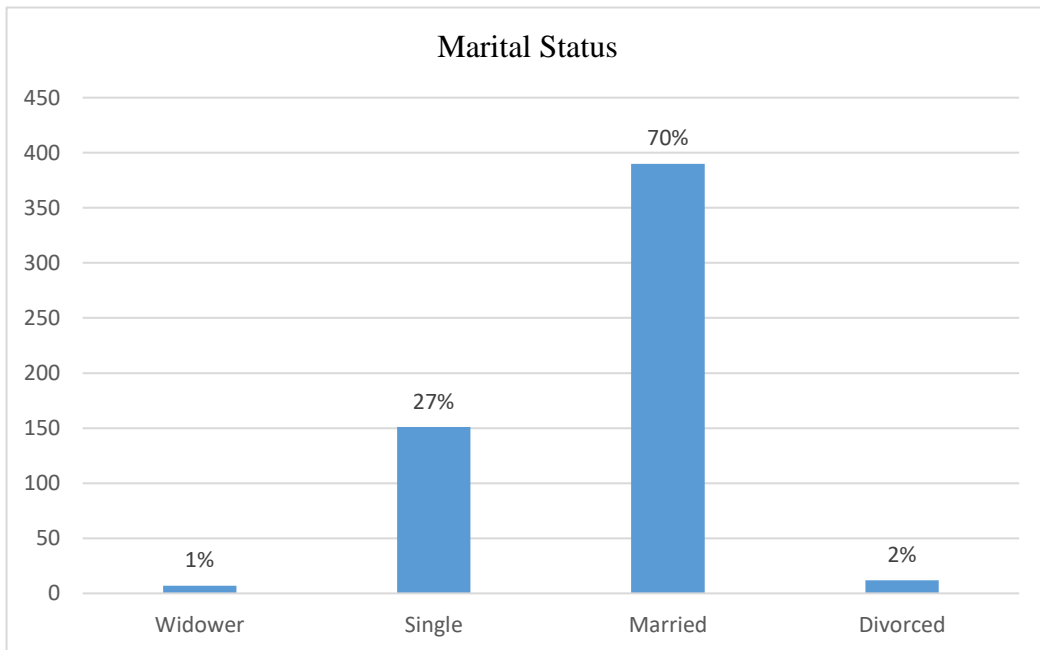
Nationalities of Respondents



### Respondents by Gender

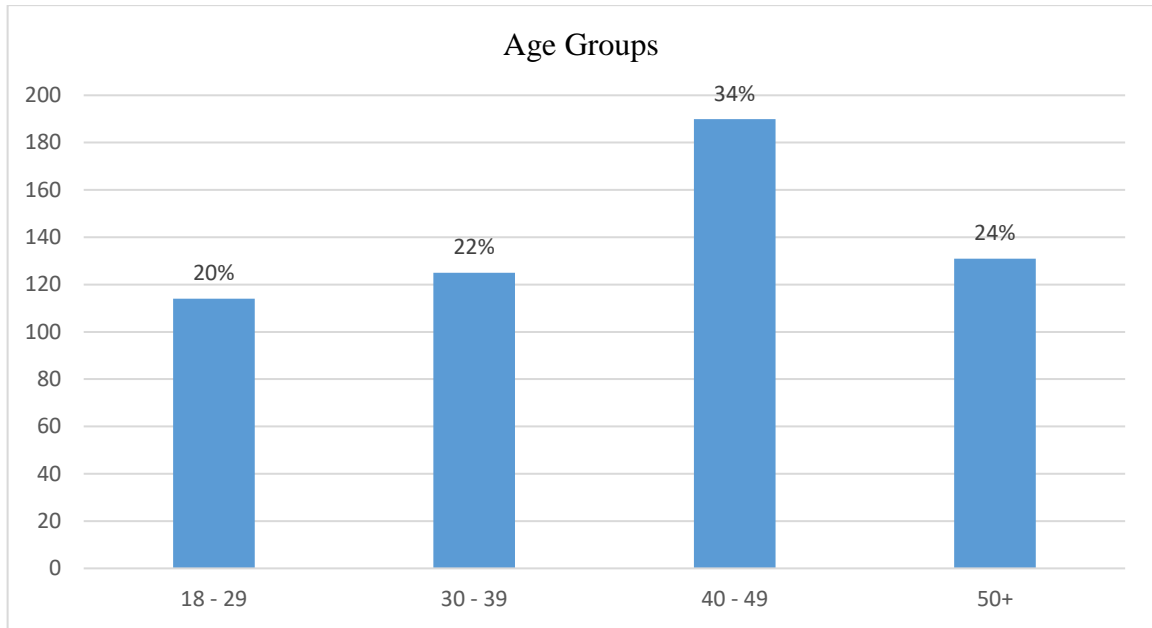


### Respondents by Marital Status

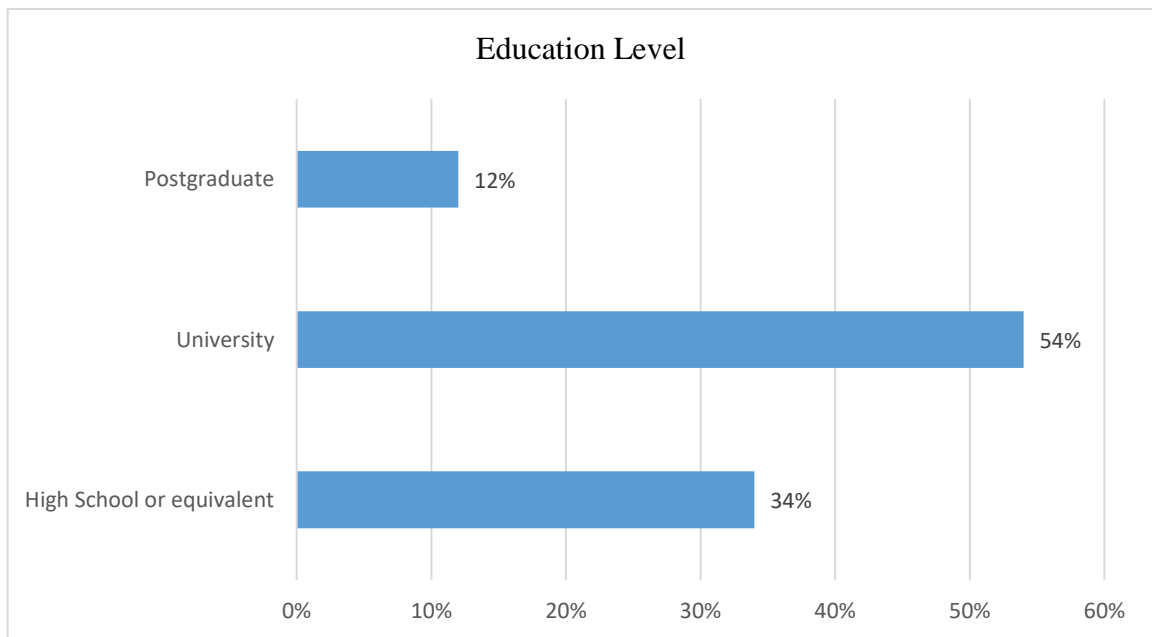




### Age Groups of Respondents



### Education Level of Respondents

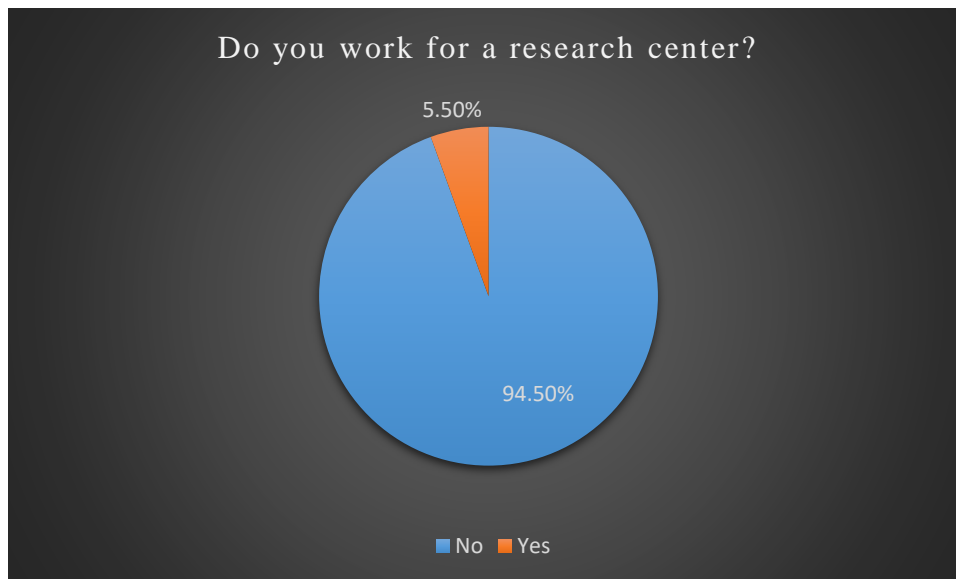


### Results and Analyses

**Question 1:** Do you work for a research center?

As many as 94.5% of respondents, representing different nationalities, age groups, and education levels, said they were not working for research centers. Their participation in the Opinion Poll was out of their interest in the US election.

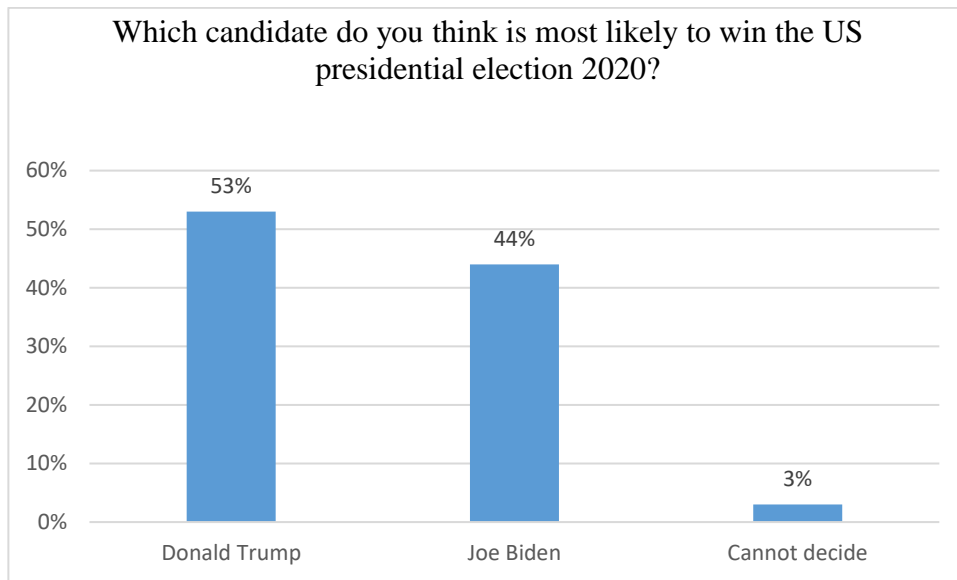
No	Yes
94.50 %	5.50 %



**Question 2:** Which candidate do you prefer the most?

More than half of the respondents (53%) preferred the Republican candidate Donald Trump while 44% preferred the Democratic Party nominee Joe Biden. These results could be attributed to Trump’s policies during his first term, which has been described as bold and realistic, and his efforts to find solutions to the various crises in the Middle East region. On the other hand, Biden is not seen as presenting a new vision but seems to be pursuing the policies of the former President, Barak Obama, especially concerning the Middle East.

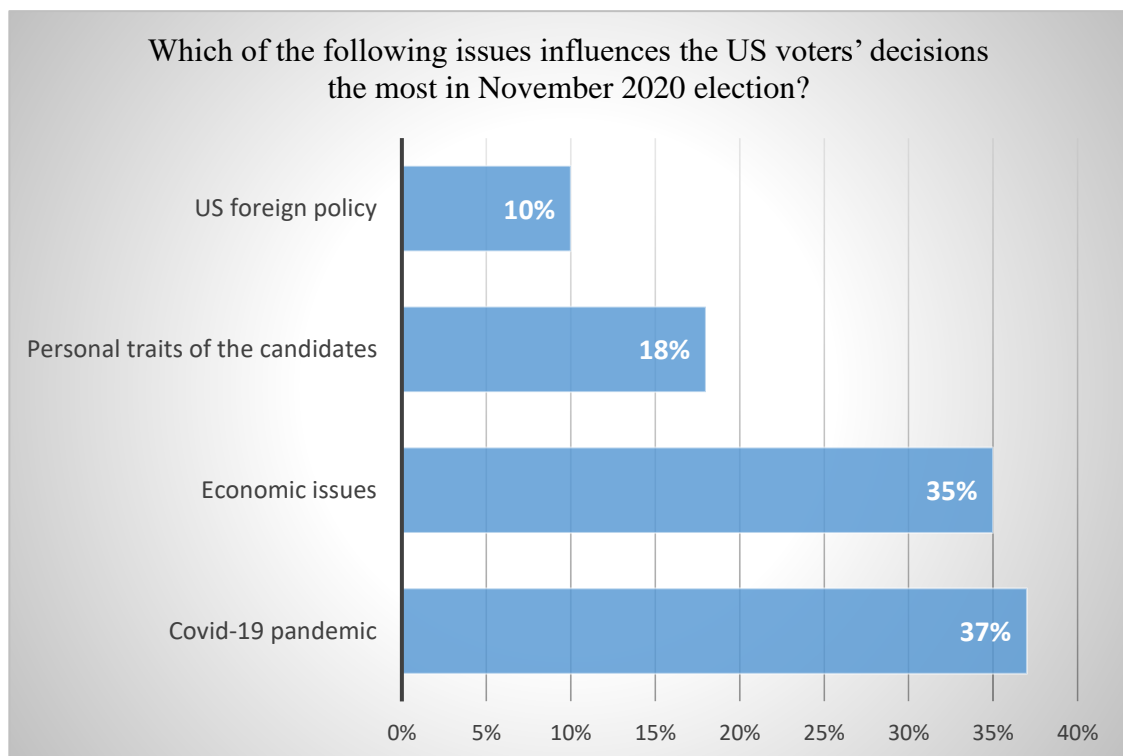
Cannot Decide	Joe Biden	Donald Trump
3%	44%	53%



**Question 3:** Which of the following issues influences the US voters' decisions the most in the November 2020 election?

Among the most critical issues influencing the US voters' decisions during the November 2020 election, the Covid-19 pandemic ranked first, with 37% of respondents, followed by economic issues (35%), personal traits of the candidates (18%), and the US foreign policy (10%). This indicates that economic issues usually represent the main concern for voters in the US, while interest in foreign policy is not among their top priorities. This has been a general feature in the history of the US presidential elections.

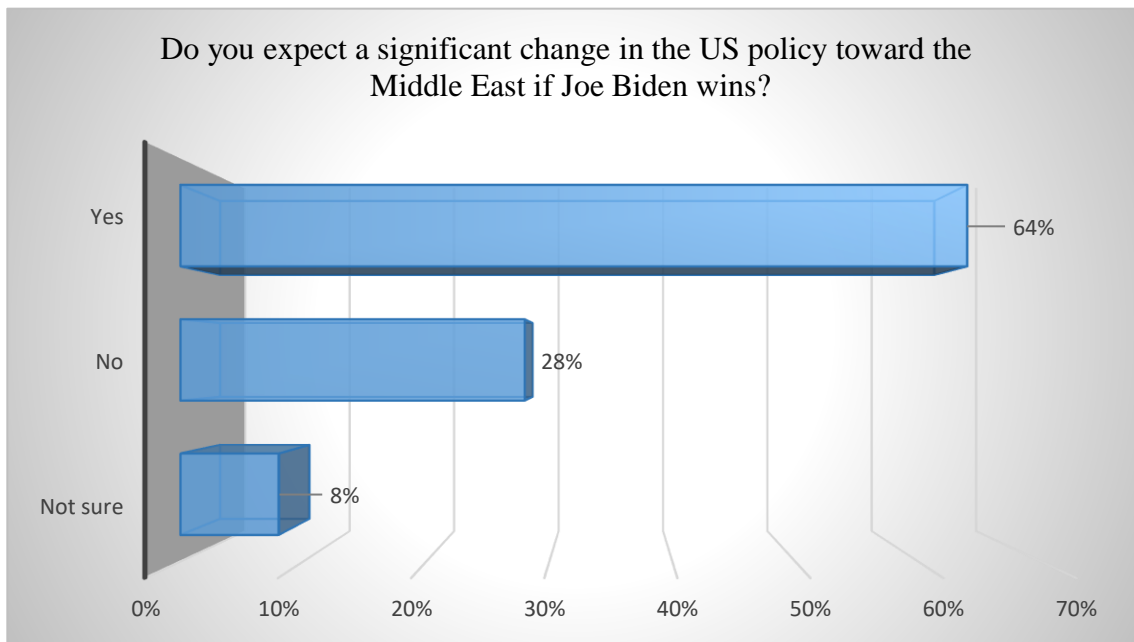
US Foreign Policy	Personal Traits of the Candidates	Economic Issues	Covid-19 Pandemic
10 %	18 %	35 %	37 %



**Question 4:** Do you expect a significant change in the US policy toward the Middle East if the Democratic candidate Joe Biden wins?

Sixty-four percent expected a substantial shift in the US policy toward the Middle East if Joe Biden wins the election, while 28% disagreed. This could be attributed to the Democratic party’s policies followed by former President, Barak Obama, toward the Middle East and North Africa.

Not Sure	No	Yes
8 %	28%	64%



**Question 5:** Which of the following issues are expected to see a significant change in the US policy toward them if Joe Biden wins?

Among the issues that are expected to see a significant change in the US policy if Biden wins, Iran came first (55%), followed by peaceful settlement in the Middle East (20%), political Islam (19%), and Turkey (6%). The expected change in Biden's policies can be explained by his frequent criticism of Trump's foreign policy, particularly regarding Iran and his withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal. Biden supports the US's return to the deal and alleviating the sanctions imposed on Iran. At the same time, Biden follows the policies of former President Barak Obama toward political Islam groups, with the Muslim Brotherhood at the forefront.

Relations with Turkey	Position toward Political Islam, Especially Muslim Brotherhood	Peaceful Settlement in the Middle East	Iran
6 %	19 %	20 %	55%

