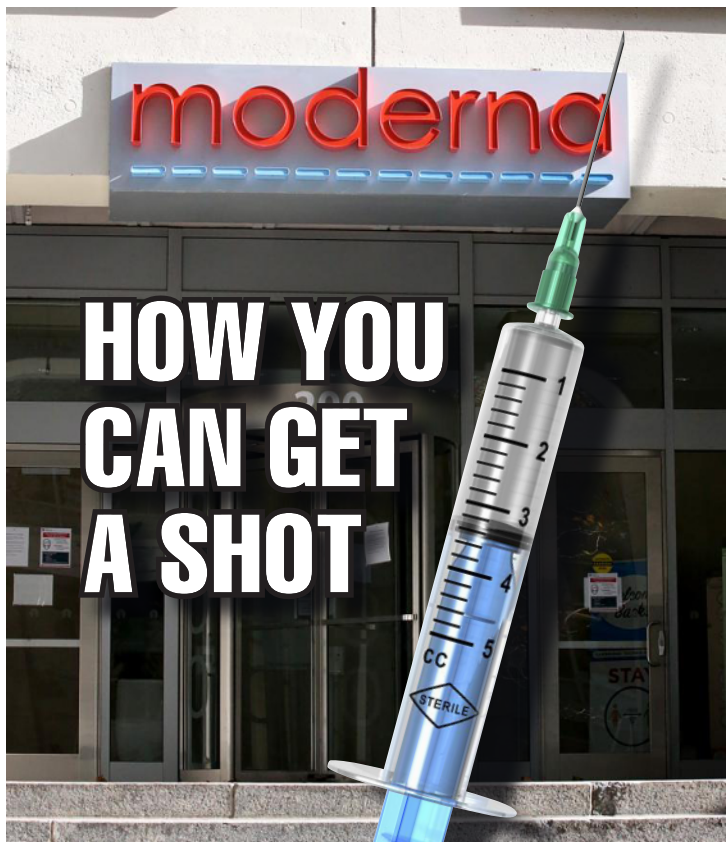


**HIGH GRADES FOR
THE HOODIE**



**BACK FOR
MORE IN
2024?**



Trump supporters say run again

BASE: TRUMP SHOULD



‘COUNT EVERY VOTE’: A group of Biden supporters march along Boylston Street following a ‘Count Every Vote’ rally in Copley Square on Nov. 7.

PAUL CONNORS / BOSTON HERALD

Get a grip, we’re in this pandemic together

Can we all just get along? Following the results of the Franklin Pierce University-Boston Herald post-election poll, some things are clear. We are a country divided and the pandemic is not helping to unite us. Social psychologist Jeff Greenberg has a theory, called the Terror Management Theory, which tells us that identifying with our own group at the expense of the “other” is a way to cope with thoughts of death. Identifying with a group helps us to feel like we are part of something bigger, something that might continue even if we do not. If we hope to reduce racism,



Leslie BUDDINGTON

as do 42% of those polled hope, it will help to remember what social psychologists have found about bringing disparate groups together. As 30% of those polled suggested, we should focus on our similarities instead of our differences. A famous experiment conducted in the 1950s found that having a goal that everyone aspires to unites people. According to the poll, we

are in no short supply of goals. Our wish list reads like a hopeful child at Christmas. Seven percent of those polled want to end racism. Forty-two percent want to end the pandemic. Twenty-five percent are wishing for a better economy. Add them all to your Christmas list. We could focus on goals that span across the political divide. Let’s work together, as 42% said when asked if it is important to discuss politics with others, even if you don’t agree. Sure, we could focus on disagreeing with those who don’t share our view, as 5% of those polled believed.

But research indicates that racism or, more accurately, a focus on the good inherent in our own group, is usually a sign of low self-esteem. The economy is not helping anyone to feel better. Ten percent have lost their jobs. Eight percent have lost a loved family member due to the pandemic. All of us could use some good in our lives. Let’s try to focus on that common ground as we head into the holiday season.

Leslie Buddington is an assistant professor of psychology at Franklin Pierce University.



FINDING ‘COMMON GROUND’: A Trump supporter shakes hands with a Biden supporter during dueling protests in front of the State House on Nov. 7.

PAUL CONNORS / BOSTON HERALD FILE

Not everyone sure that their vote was counted accurately

By **JOE BATTENFELD**

Six in 10 voters for President Trump say he should run again in 2024, and 71% of Trump supporters believe the election was rigged, a new Franklin Pierce University-Boston Herald poll shows. The post-election poll of 1,200 voters nationwide reveals that most Trump backers remain extremely loyal to the president, to the point that just 23% agree that the election outcome was “legitimate.” Asked whether Trump should run in 2024, just 19% of Trump voters and 26% of Republicans said no — he shouldn’t run again. Those numbers indicate the president has maintained his loyal following despite losing the election. And most Trump voters even argue with the fact that the media has called the election for Democrat Joe Biden. Nearly seven in 10 disagreed

that the election outcome was “legitimate.” But Trump would still find strong resistance if he decides to run again in 2024, the poll shows. Among all voters, including Democrats, independents and Republicans, 58% say Trump should not run for president in 2024, with 28% saying he should run, according to the Franklin Pierce-Herald poll. But just among Republicans, 56% want him to run again, the poll shows. The poll reveals that Americans remain sharply divided along partisan lines when asked about the election. An overwhelming majority of all voters believe that their vote for president was “counted and treated accurately.” But nearly three in 10 Republicans said they were “not very confident” or “not at all confident” that their vote was counted accurately. More than one third of all voters agreed with the state-

RUN AGAIN NEXT TIME

ment that the election was “rigged and biased” — while nearly half of all voters disagreed with that statement. But a clear majority of Republicans — 56% — said they believed that the election was rigged and biased — a charge President Trump has repeatedly made. Asked whether they were prepared to “accept the outcome” of the election, an overwhelming 81% said yes, while just 10% said no. A clear majority of voters also agree that absentee ballots received by local elections officials after Nov. 3 should be counted, but just 35% of Republicans say they believe those votes should be counted. The coronavirus pandemic and the economy top the issues that voters said affected their vote the most, according to the Franklin Pierce-Herald post-election poll. And 19% of voters said the “candidate’s fitness for office” affected their vote the most. A whopping 42% believe the government’s highest priority should be controlling COVID-19, while one quarter of voters said the economy should be the highest priority. The poll also revealed strong reservations about one key Democratic proposal — packing the Supreme Court with more justices. Four in 10 people said they do not support expanding the Supreme Court, while just 30% said they did support expanding the high court. Even among just Democrats, only 41% backed packing the court with more justices. A Democratic plan to end the filibuster in the U.S. Senate drew mixed results. Forty-seven percent of all voters support the idea of ending the filibuster, while 23% did not support the plan. Two in 10 voters said they were neutral on the idea. And a majority of voters reject a proposal backed by Democrats to end the Electoral College system of electing the president. Fifty-six percent of all voters said they were supportive of the Electoral College, while 38% did not support it. The Franklin Pierce-Herald poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3%.

POST-ELECTION

Top 10 poll takeaways

In a post-election poll, all 1,200 surveyed said they voted and have a lot to say about the state of the country. Here are 10 top talking points:

TRUMP

BIDEN

Should President Trump run in 2024?
60% who voted for Trump say yes
OVERALL
27%..... Yes
58%..... No
13%..... Unsure
2%..... Decline to answer

Do you back packing the Supreme Court?
30%..... Strongly against
23%..... Neutral
15%..... Strongly support

Do you strongly agree the election outcome is legitimate?
19%..... No
48%..... Yes

Will you get a COVID-19 vaccine?
51%..... Yes
24%..... No
24% ... Unsure

What issue most influenced your vote?
23%..... Economy
21%..... Pandemic
19%..... Fitness for office

Do you support keeping Obamacare?
39%..... Yes

Should there be a national mask mandate?

PAUL CONNORS / BOSTON HERALD

IT WAS RIGGED: President Trump supporter LoAnn Maynard, of Hanover, holds a sign out to drivers crossing over the Bourne Bridge during a ‘Stop the Steal’ rally on Saturday.

Senate can still be taken hostage by the filibuster

Kaitlyn ACCIARDO

The U.S. Senate’s long-winded delay tactic, otherwise known as the filibuster, appears here to stay. A post-election poll by Franklin Pierce University and the Boston Herald shows 46% of respondents support keeping the filibuster, while 23% strongly or somewhat want to see it removed. So, what exactly is a filibuster? Less than 30% surveyed said they were extremely or very familiar with the filibuster. The term comes from a Dutch word meaning “pirate.” As in senators taking the floor hostage to thwart passage of some unpopular legislation. To end debate on a bill, a 60-vote supermajority is required in the Senate. As long as the proponents of the legislation do not have the supermajority to end debate, the opposing senators can filibuster for as long as they want. One memorable filibuster occurred in September 2013 when Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas performed a 21-hour filibuster on the Senate floor in opposition to Obamacare. Cruz read his daughters the bedtime story “Green Eggs and Ham” and

professed his love for White Castle sliders. A senator must remain standing while they are on the Senate floor or the filibuster ends. The only time the senator can take a break is when an ally senator asks them a question (yes, this includes bathroom breaks). There has been a push within the Democratic Party to eliminate the 60-vote threshold. But that’s not going to happen this time around — even if both Senate seats in Georgia go to the Democrats. The balance in the Senate now stands at 50-48 with the GOP in control. A tie-breaker would go to Vice President-elect Kamala Harris. With a Democratic president and a likely Republican Senate, it looks like the filibuster is here to stay for the foreseeable future.

Fitzwater Scholar Kaitlyn Acciaro is a sophomore at Franklin Pierce University studying political science. She is from Hampden, Mass.

AP FILE

CAN BE LONG-WINDED : Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, once famously employed the filibuster tactic to try to prevent a vote on Obamacare.

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MONITORING YOUR BEHAVIOR: Apple's Identifier for Advertisers allows Apple and all apps on the phone to track a user and combine information about online and mobile behavior, prompting two complaints.

Activists file complaints over iPhone tracking

BERLIN — European privacy activists have filed complaints against Apple over its use of software to track the behavior of iPhone users.

The Vienna-based group NOYB — short for “none of your business” — said Monday that it has asked data protection authorities in Germany and Spain to examine the legality of Apple's tracking codes.

The codes, known as IDFA or Identifier for Advertisers, are similar to the cookies that websites use to store information on user behavior.

NOYB says the iOS operating system creates unique codes for each iPhone that allow Apple and other third parties to “identify users across applications and even connect online and mobile behaviour.”

The group argues that this

amounts to tracking without users' knowledge or consent.

“Tracking is only allowed if users explicitly consent to it,” said Stefano Rossetti, a lawyer for NOYB.

Apple dismissed the claims in NOYB's complaint, saying they were “factually inaccurate and we look forward to making that clear to privacy regulators should they examine the complaint.”

“Our aim is always to protect the privacy of our users,” Apple said, adding that the latest version of its software gives users greater control over whether apps can track them, including whether their information can be linked with data from third parties “for the purpose of advertising, or sharing their information with data brokers.”

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

For those surveyed, it's all about money

Economy is the top concern



Mack BEAN

President Trump and Joe Biden amassed over 150 million combined votes — the largest tally for any presidential campaign in U.S. history.

Why? The economy.

A post-election poll conducted by Franklin Pierce University and the Boston Herald shows 23% of those surveyed were driven to vote due to the economy. The pandemic was second at 21%.

Going forward, 40% said they are “optimistic” about the economy — but only after the federal government tackles the coronavirus. The nationwide survey of 1,200 voters shows 42% say the “highest priority” now is the pandemic, with the economy coming in next at 25%.

The tug-of-war over the response to the pandemic shows more agreed with Biden than Trump. But the question of the economy remains.

A major concern is

understanding how American consumption will be affected over the next few months due to increasing coronavirus infections. Those polled appear cautious, with 18% saying they will “decrease” their consumption of goods due to the virus.

Still, 56% say they will not change their buying habits and 14% will wait and see.

Addressing this concern will provide insight into the nation's ability to rebound economically. To a degree, an economic rebound within this national tragedy will be based on the confidence of national leadership, as well as the level of business activity that will be allowed to occur over the coming months.

While most of the participants were relieved that the election is over and remain optimistic about the economic outlook, they overwhelmingly are going to hold tight.

It is yet to be seen how the government will approach the pandemic in 2021. Will the new adminis-



NICOLAUS CZARNECKI / HERALD STAFF FILE

GETTING BACK ON TRACK: Logan Airport's Terminal A is nearly empty in August, and responses to a Franklin Pierce University/Boston Herald poll say concerns about the economy are at the top of people's minds.

tration leave the economy open or close it?

A national mask mandate is backed by 64% of those polled, but nobody is in favor of a nationwide economic shutdown.

The good news is Biden agrees.

He's said no to a national shutdown.

What individual governors do is another story. But with 81% of those polled ready to accept the outcome of the 2020 Election, it's clear we're all ready to turn the corner and get back to work.

Mack Bean is a business administration professor at Franklin Pierce University.

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