ASU’s Center for Latina/os and American Politics Research (CLAPR) recently contributed to a Latino Presidential Poll, which was conducted through a partnership with other organizations. Some of its notable findings include the following.

With the exception of the 1996 Presidential race, when Bill Clinton was re-elected, Arizona has not voted for a Democratic presidential candidate since 1952. Given the significance of the presidential election and the contentious U.S. Senate race between incumbent Republican Martha McSally and Democratic challenger Mark Kelly, we asked Arizonan registered voters (Oct 17-25, n=725) about their vote choice, and, further, they believe President Trump is effectively handling the Coronavirus pandemic. We also asked Arizonans about their support Prop. 207 (The Smart and Safe Arizona Act) legalizing Marijuana, and Prop. 208, which would impose a 3.5% tax to be used to improve Arizona schools.

Our poll finds that over sixty-six percent of Latina/os prefer the Democratic candidate, former Vice president Joe Biden, for president, and 53% of Whites also prefer Biden. Regarding the Senate race, a clear majority favor Mark Kelly for the Senate over Martha McSally, with a much closer gap among White respondents.
Millions of dollars have been poured into the Proposition 207 and 208 campaigns. Our poll finds that Whites are more likely to support the legalization of marijuana (57% vs 51%) compared to Latinos. We also asked if Arizonans believe the passage of recreational marijuana will be positive or negative for Arizona and we find that Latinos are 11 percentage points less likely than Whites (49% vs 60%) to think the legalization of marijuana will be positive for Arizona.

The results for Prop. 208, which would increase the income tax on those with incomes over $250,000 a year and distribute the revenue to teachers and education programs, indicate that that Latinos overwhelmingly support this measure. In fact, Latinos are 17 percentage points more likely its passage. These findings suggest that both Propositions will pass in Arizona.

Furthermore, the Arizona poll reveals that the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic is a core issue. When asked about their top concerns, Latina/o registered voters overwhelmingly said the next administration needs to deal with the coronavirus (54%). This was followed by Healthcare costs (32%), wages and income (33%), unemployment (28%), and immigrant rights (21%) as important issues the next administration should address. Differences also appear along partisan lines, as 69% of Democrats believe that the handling of Covid-19 is a major issue confronting the next president, compared to 45% of Republicans.

Regarding evaluations of the current administration’s performance, most voters disapprove of how Donald Trump has handled his role as President. Among Latina/o voters, 64% disapprove while 52% of disapprove of the President’s
overall handling of his job. A notable divide is apparent along partisan lines; 73 percentage points separate voters from the two major parties. Specifically, 86% of Democrats expressed disapproval of President Trump’s overall performance compared to just 13% of Republicans.

Our research highlights the importance of the Latino vote and its implications for the changing politics of Arizona. Following the election, we will be delving deeper into these trends and will be highlighting the diverse policy preferences and other important features of the evolving Arizona electorate.

About the Survey:

ASU’s Center for Latina/os and American Politics Research (CLAPR) recently contributed to a Latino Presidential Poll, which was conducted through a partnership between Univision News and UnidosUS/SOMOS. This national poll along with four statewide polls were conducted in Arizona, Florida, Texas, and Pennsylvania from the 17th through the 25th of October 2020.

The Arizona-specific portion had 725 respondents, and a Latino oversample of n=402. The Arizona poll covered various topics including individuals’ likelihood of voting in the 2020 presidential election, attitudes concerning the current administration, preferences for candidates in the presidential and U.S. Senate race, views regarding responses to Covid-19 at the national and state level, and ballot propositions particular concern to the state of Arizona.