

UNLOCKING THE HISPANIC VOTE

FOCUS GROUP REPORT

COLORADO

EMERSON COLLEGE POLLING CENTER

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CONTENTS

TOPLINE REPORT 3

FULL REPORT 6

INTRODUCTION 7

METHODOLOGY 8

KEY FINDINGS 9

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS 11

GROUP 1-REGISTERED ENGLISH 12

GROUP 2-NON-REGISTERED ENGLISH 35

GROUP 3-REGISTERED SPANISH 54

Objectives of the Study

Emerson College Polling Center conducted a research study to better understand the attitudes and beliefs among Hispanics living in Colorado in four key topic areas related to U.S. politics and voting issues: (1) News consumption and trust in media, (2) voting and civic attitudes, (3) most important issues, and (4) partisanship and politics. Participants included both registered and non-registered citizens, the latter of which is understudied. This qualitative research is informed by a Colorado state-wide survey (also conducted by Emerson College Polling Center) and is part of a larger study that will investigate these same key areas in a total of six U.S. states with significant Hispanic populations.

Methodology

Three focus groups of participants of Hispanic ethnicity were conducted in Denver, Colorado in May 2022: one of Hispanic registered voters who vote (conducted in English), a second of Hispanic non-registered citizens (conducted in English), and a third of Hispanic registered voters who vote (conducted in Spanish). Recruitment was done by the facility, Fieldwork, using a participant screener. Participants in the English groups were given a \$125 incentive to take part in the study, and the Spanish language participants were given \$150. The study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Emerson College.

Emerson College Polling Research Team

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Student Research Assistants

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KEY FINDINGS

SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Newspapers and local broadcast news are included among the media that several participants consumed and trusted. However, respondents were split on whether they access information through traditional means, online, or on their smartphones.

Several participants say they are exposed to news feeds such as Apple News and Google News that present them with a selection of news stories each day on their smartphones.

In the non-registered citizen groups, participants’ are more informed through lived experiences than traditional news media sources.

Although there is general distrust toward social media platforms, Facebook and TikTok are more trusted than others because of video content. Rumble was characterized as offering more conservative content, though its credibility was not addressed.

For registered voters, Google is a trusted platform used to check and verify news stories from other sources

SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

It was expressed that voting is an act of civic duty and is a learned behavior. Participants believe that civic education is needed in schools because Hispanic families are not teaching children these concepts at home.

There was agreement that barriers to voting in Colorado are low because ballots and informational “blue books” are mailed directly to voters. However, the blue books are viewed as containing confusing language for the average voter to understand.

Participants believe that Hispanics don’t vote because they don’t think anything will change. Across registered and non-registered groups, there is a shared opinion that the Electoral College discourages people from voting.

Republican participants expressed distrust in elections, specifically as it relates to mail ballots.

Non-registered participants choose to not be registered to vote and decline to register even when asked to by family members. Their skepticism towards government institutions leads to withdrawing from civic engagement. These participants expressed that the two-party system makes them less inclined to participate in political life.

SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Participants shared that they are most concerned with inflation, the economy, and rising prices.

Participants are concerned about the economy and how they will continue to make ends meet. They believe the current economy is bad because they feel it in their day-to-day experiences with rising costs.

When participants talk about immigration, it is in the context of employment and not about the broader issue of political asylum.

Deaths related to fentanyl concern many of the participants, furthermore they feel that the government is contributing to the problem rather than solving it. The problem was also seen as stemming from the recreational use of drugs.

Abortion was mentioned as a top issue for several participants but was inconclusive in its impact on voter mobilization.

Many male participants view abortion as an issue where government should not interfere.

Participants were particularly concerned about the rise of racism and the lack of diversity in our workforce and government.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

Participants feel that political parties are taking Hispanics for granted, but feel that at the same time both parties are starting to take notice of Hispanics.

Generally, the Democratic Party is seen as more welcoming to Hispanics, whereas there is a perception that Hispanics aligned with the Republican party are “bad people” because the party is seen as racist.

Neither political party was viewed in a completely positive way, and neither was seen as producing real results. Instead, the parties are thought to mainly bicker amongst themselves.

Generally, Republicans were seen as better on the issue of the economy, while Democrats were seen as better with social programs.

While Democrats’ social programs are supported in theory, in practice, participants expressed concerns about the party’s ability to fund them.

Participants agree more with Democrats on immigration but are disappointed with their ability to deliver on their promises.

Ronald Reagan is remembered as delivering on immigration and having strength and courage.



FULL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Over the course of two days, May 2 and 3, 2022, three (3) focus groups were conducted in Denver, Colorado as part of a research study for Emerson College Polling Center. The objectives of the research study are to assess and understand different attitudes and beliefs of Hispanic Americans toward U.S. politics and voting issues. The study included English and Spanish-speaking participants and included both registered and non-registered citizens.

There are four areas of concentration for the project:

1. News Consumption and Trust in Media
2. Voting and Civic Attitudes
3. Most Important Issues
4. Partisanship and Politics

This study is significant because it offers information that can be used to better understand this demographically diverse group as a growing voting bloc in U.S. politics and to gain insight into their political ideology and identification.

A statistically significant Colorado state-wide survey (also conducted by Emerson College Polling Center) provided a foundation for this qualitative research project. Furthermore, this Colorado project is part of a larger study that will investigate these same key areas of concentration in a total of six U.S. states with significant Hispanic populations.

The study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Emerson College and has been assigned protocol number 22-029-F-X-3/29. The title of the research study is Emerson College Polling Hispanic Research Project.

METHODOLOGY

The three Colorado focus groups were conducted at a professional focus group facility, Fieldwork, located in downtown Denver.

The Moderator Guide used to guide the discussion was developed by the research team at Emerson College Polling. Laura Barberena, Ph.D., a staff member at Emerson College Polling Center, served as the moderator for the 3 groups.

Participants were recruited by the facility using participant screeners (See Supplemental Materials) created for the project. Recruitment was conducted approximately two weeks prior to the groups taking place. An incentive of \$125 for English participants and \$150 for Spanish participants was offered to those who met the criteria for each group. The payment was done upon their completion of participation in the focus group discussion. The Spanish group was given a slightly higher incentive because of the difficulty of recruiting this population sector. The goal was to recruit eleven (11) people per group, with the intention of seating 8 participants for each. Upon arrival at the facility, participants were asked to complete an “In-take Survey” to ensure that they met the criteria for participation in each group (see Supplemental Materials).

The timeline of the focus groups was as follows:

- Group 1 - Monday, May 2, 2022, 4 pm
 - Hispanic Registered Voters (conducted in English)
- Group 2 - Monday, May 2, 2022, 6 pm
 - Hispanic Non-Registered Citizens (conducted in English)
- Group 3 - Tuesday, May 3, 2022, 4 pm
 - Hispanic Registered Voters (conducted in Spanish)

Further details on the participants within each group can be found in the section of this report titled Focus Group Highlights.

Each of the 3 focus groups lasted approximately 90 minutes and was audio and video recorded. Transcripts of each of the groups were created by professional transcription services and were used for analysis. The Spanish language group was transcribed in Spanish and then translated into English. These transcripts can be found in the accompanying Supplemental Materials of this report.

The Moderator Guide, Participant Screener, and In-Take form were translated into Spanish by the bilingual team members of Emerson College Polling Center. Copies of these can also be found in the Supplemental Materials.

KEY FINDINGS

SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Newspapers and local broadcast news are included among the media that several participants consumed and trusted. However, respondents were split on whether they access information through traditional means, online, or on their smartphones.

Several participants say they are exposed to news feeds such as Apple News and Google News that present them with a selection of news stories each day on their smartphones.

In the non-registered citizen groups, participants' are more informed through lived experiences than traditional news media sources.

Although there is general distrust toward social media platforms, Facebook and TikTok are more trusted than others because of video content. Rumble was characterized as offering more conservative content, though its credibility was not addressed.

For registered voters, Google is a trusted platform used to check and verify news stories from other sources

SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

It was expressed that voting is an act of civic duty and is a learned behavior. Participants believe that civic education is needed in schools because Hispanic families are not teaching children these concepts at home.

There was agreement that barriers to voting in Colorado are low because ballots and informational "blue books" are mailed directly to voters. However, the blue books are viewed as containing confusing language for the average voter to understand.

Participants believe that Hispanics don't vote because they don't think anything will change. Across registered and non-registered groups, there is a shared opinion that the Electoral College discourages people from voting.

Republican participants expressed distrust in elections, specifically as it relates to mail ballots.

Non-registered participants choose to not be registered to vote and decline to register even when asked to by family members. Their skepticism towards government institutions leads to withdrawing from civic engagement. These participants expressed that the two-party system makes them less inclined to participate in political life.

SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Participants shared that they are most concerned with inflation, the economy, and rising prices.

Participants are concerned about the economy and how they will continue to make ends meet. They believe the current economy is bad because they feel it in their day-to-day experiences with rising costs.

When participants talk about immigration, it is in the context of employment and not about the broader issue of political asylum.

Deaths related to fentanyl concern many of the participants, furthermore they feel that the government is contributing to the problem rather than solving it. The problem was also seen as stemming from the recreational use of drugs.

Abortion was mentioned as a top issue for several participants but was inconclusive in its impact on voter mobilization.

Many male participants view abortion as an issue where government should not interfere.

Participants were particularly concerned about the rise of racism and the lack of diversity in our workforce and government.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

Participants feel that political parties are taking Hispanics for granted, but feel that at the same time both parties are starting to take notice of Hispanics.

Generally, the Democratic Party is seen as more welcoming to Hispanics, whereas there is a perception that Hispanics aligned with the Republican party are “bad people” because the party is seen as racist.

Neither political party was viewed in a completely positive way, and neither was seen as producing real results. Instead, the parties are thought to mainly bicker amongst themselves.

Generally, Republicans were seen as better on the issue of the economy, while Democrats were seen as better with social programs.

While Democrats’ social programs are supported in theory, in practice, participants expressed concerns about the party’s ability to fund them.

Participants agree more with Democrats on immigration but are disappointed with their ability to deliver on their promises.

Ronald Reagan is remembered as delivering on immigration and having strength and courage.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

FOCUS GROUP 1 PARTICIPANTS

Focus Group Profile: Hispanic Registered Voters with History of Voting Conducted in English

- 6 female and 2 male
- Income range between \$20k - \$100k+
- Education:
 - 5 some college
 - 1 college graduate
 - 2 postgraduate
- Six participants were from English only speaking households, 2 were from more English than Spanish speaking households

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Female	41	Other Hispanic	Independent	G1: J
Female	59	Mexican	Democrat	G1:MB
Female	42	Mexican	Other	G1:LD
Female	46	Mexican	Democrat	G1: LM
Female	55	Mexican	Independent	G1: MS
Female	31	Mexican	Independent	G1: AJ
Male	75	Other Hispanic	Democrat	G1: AG
Male	49	Mexican	Republican	G1: R

Key Findings: Group 1

SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

- Local news is a trusted source of information, as are other news sources that are fed to them through news feeds on their smartphones
- News is being consumed both through traditional means and online, even among older participants.
- While an overall distrust in news was expressed, participants noted higher trust in individual newscasters and their local news.
- Google is a trusted platform used to check and verify news stories from other sources.
- Participants see political discussion on social media sites, but have little trust in its accuracy, seeing it as opinion-based content.
- Social media was not a trusted source of news information, and several noted that Facebook Candidates and political campaigns are not being used as sources of political news.
- Participants noted no difference between English and Spanish news.

SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

- Participants viewed good citizens as not racist and committed to diversity.
- The group believes that good citizens have a connection with their community and act in the best interest of that community.
- It was expressed that voting is an act of civic duty and is a learned behavior.
- There was agreement that barriers to voting in Colorado are low because ballots and informational “blue books” are mailed directly to voters. However, the blue books are viewed as containing confusing language for the average voter to understand.

Key Findings: Group 1 Continued

SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

- Participants believe that education is key to success.
- The state of the economy is the most important issue, and participants worry about making ends meet.
- A rise in drug use, specifically fentanyl, concerns many of the participants and they feel that the government is contributing to the problem rather than solving it.
- Participants see the economy as affecting several other critical issues in society.
- Perception of the current economy is bad because they feel it in their own pocketbooks and lived experiences.
- Participants expressed support of the Black Lives Matters call for justice, but not calls to defund the police.
- One participant shared that the issue of abortion is a motivating factor for voting as well as financially contributing to political campaigns.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

- Neither political party was viewed in a completely positive way, and neither was seen as producing real results. Instead, the parties are thought to mainly bicker amongst themselves.
- Participants feel that political parties are taking Hispanics for granted, with Democrats less so.
- While Democrats' social programs are supported in theory, in practice, participants expressed concerns about the party's ability to fund them.
- It was expressed that Hispanic candidates serve as motivators to get out the Hispanic electorate.
- There was a consensus that Republicans were best on the issue of the economy, meanwhile, there was no consensus on which issue Democrats were best on.
- Participants suggested that the key to getting Hispanics to vote is to convince them that their vote matters.
- Bad candidates contribute to low voter participation.
- Former President Trump was not mentioned during the focus group discussion.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Local news is a trusted source of information, as are other news sources that are fed to them through news feeds on their smartphones

For many of the participants, local news was a significant and trusted source of information, and it is consumed in a variety of ways, from watching live on television to apps on their smartphones. Participants shared that when using their smartphones, news feeds expose them to several different news sources. Choices of what to further consume are made from that limited, but trusted feed.

G1: MS (00:12:25): I do the local news on my phone. Yeah. The channel 7, 4, 2, FOX31.

G1: Moderator (00:12:33): App or do you actually watch live?

G1: MS (00:12:34): I watch, I do the app on my phone. That's where I read it.

G1: MB (00:13:26): Most of it's, um, I'd say online looking at like Denver Local 7. I have an app, when [I] go onto my phone, it's just news, different ones you can choose from looking into.

G1: Moderator (00:13:40): Oh, is that like an Apple phone or something or?

G1: MB (00:13:42): No, it's an Android. It's- It just goes into different newscasts. Different ones, if I see something I want to look at, I'll look at it. Um, campus has a lot of stuff going on. Um-... TV.

G1: Moderator (00:13:57): TV? Okay. Would you say you do more from television or your phone, where you get the news?

G1: MB (00:14:02): It's about half and half.

News is being consumed both through traditional means and online, even among older participants.

Several participants expressed that they are now consuming news online, with one noting they listen to a daily news podcast, while another participant shared that they get the national and local news via streaming service.

G1: Moderator (00:12:38): Okay. LD, MB, where do you get your news?.

G1: LD (00:12:40): Um, I listen to a few NPR podcasts... a daily one and a weekly one that I follow. And then-

G1: Moderator (00:12:48): Do you remember the names of them? Just curiosity.

G1: LD (00:12:48): Oh my God. I don't know.

G1: Moderator (00:12:48): That's okay.

G1: LD (00:12:52): One of them is like a five... It's like five to seven minutes daily.

G1: Moderator (00:12:54): So it's just daily news?

G1: LD (00:12:57): And then if there's something on that that intrigues me, then I'll just Google. I'll just look it up.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA (Cont.)

G1: J (00:14:15): And then I'll also stream, um, like CNN, um, you know, like the local channel 9 news-

G1: Moderator (00:14:30): Okay. What about you, R? Are you getting most from the television or your phone... It's combination of all those, but how would you split it-

G1: R (00:14:37): A laptop computer. It's where I get the majority of it. I would say about 60% to, maybe 20% phone, and, um, 10% reading.

While an overall distrust in news was expressed, participants noted higher trust in individual newscasters and their local news.

While a few in the group shared that they did not trust the news media to give unbiased information, some noted that the newscaster, the person delivering the news, played an important role in the level of trust they had for a particular newscast. However, whether a newscaster was trustworthy was based on the reporter's delivery style and subjective, personal feelings about them.

G1: Moderator (00:15:40): What media sources do you all trust the most? You say, "I really trust this media source." Which trust do you trust the most?

G1: LD (00:15:47): None of them.

G1: Moderator (00:17:01): What makes it more trustworthy? What makes you trust one more than the other?

G1: AG (00:17:06): There's only one way that would work, and that's the person that's broadcasting it telling you that what you're listening to...

G1: MS (00:18:02): I like to watch Sunday Morning on CBS.

G1: Moderator (00:18:06): CBS?

G1: MS (00:18:06): Yeah. That's the, my go-to to hear about, um, national news or-

G1: Moderator (00:18:12): What makes it trustworthy?

G1: MS (00:18:12): I like their foc-... I don't know. I think it's maybe the person that's presenting it. It's Jane Pauley and I've always liked her. So I just like the way she delivers the news,

G1: AJ (00:18:38): I agree with that. Sometimes it's just, like, a person that you prefer reporting the news that you know that they kind of don't put a weird spin on it. So somebody that you trust versus, like, a whole network. That's kind of how I am. I have a few people like journalists or podcasters or something that I'll like read their stuff, but I don't necessarily read, like, the whole newspaper.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 1

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA (Cont.)

Google is a trusted platform used to check and verify news stories from other sources.

Two participants noted that Google is a trusted source that is used to verify the credibility of other news stories. One participant shared that she relies on word of mouth as well to verify a story.

G1: LD (00:12:57): And then if there's something on that that intrigues me, then I'll just Google. I'll just look it up.

Moderator (00:13:03): Does that include local and national news or just local news?

G1: LD (00:13:06): It's more, like, international, national. And then if there's big more catastrophic events or larger events that affect more than... Denver or Colorado.

G1: Moderator (00:14:56): LM, what about you? [where do you get your news from?]

G1: LM (00:14:56): (Laughing). Mine is probably a little bit more lazy than everybody else's, but family, friends, word of mouth. Um, we talk a lot. And of course, if there's something that's, you know, pretty huge, we'll sit down and Google or look up on the internet. Um, I [also] have, 7NEWS, 9NEWS, um, Facebook of course. I mean, there's a lot of fake news on there.

Participants see political discussion on social media sites, but have little trust in its accuracy, seeing it as opinion-based content.

Social media was not a trusted source of news information, and several noted that Facebook specifically was not seen as credible. Rather, social media was described as a good place to catch breaking news stories. NextDoor was the only one noted as trustworthy, and there was a mix of feelings about the utility of this platform.

G1: MB (00:19:59): I think it's out there and it's there, but because it's Facebook, I kind of skip over it because I'm like, "I don't know how real this is," or if someone's putting it out there.

G1: R (00:23:39): Yeah. I got rid of my Facebook accounts.

G1: Moderator (00:23:41): You did? And when did you do that? When and what made you do that?

G1: R (00:23:44): It was a few years ago. I value my privacy and entire [inaudible 00:23:47] selling my personal information.

G1: MS (00:26:25): Yeah, but I don't really follow, I don't use Facebook as much anymore. I've kind of fallen away from Facebook.

G1: Moderator (00:26:31): Okay. What made you fall away from it, Facebook?

G1: MS (00:26:35): Um, I think, just from reading, like, certain people's posts. Especially when it became very political, whether it was friends and family. They kind of got a little nasty about some of the candidates and, and I'm like, "Would you say this to this person if they were standing right in front of you? Instead of having it written down on Facebook." So I just, I really don't follow Facebook all that much.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA (Cont.)

G1: AJ (00:20:56): I think [that] social media is sometimes good for the breaking news, like what's happening right now. Um, or like local news like the Marshall Fires or something you hear about. You know, "Okay, here's this family that's like, you know, 20 miles from you," or something. Like, I think that's a good way to spread the word about.

G1: J (00:23:22): Um, I don't think they're credible, but like AJ was saying... it's good for maybe up to date information or maybe to alert people.

G1: R (00:23:49): The two social media that I think are more credible that I use are LinkedIn and Nextdoor.

G1: Moderator (00:23:56): Okay. And talk to me a little bit about Nextdoor.

G1: R (00:24:01): You can get a lot of information about what's going on in your neighborhood.

G1: Moderator (00:24:04): Mm-hmm. And you... Do you find it trustworthy?

G1: R (00:24:08): Um, yeah. It's firsthand accounts of who got robbed, whose car got broken into [inaudible 00:24:14], where the shots were fired.

G1: LD (00:24:33): It's just a weird place to argue about stuff. And then that clutters it. So there might be some good notifications about if there was a crime or whatever, but, like, the feed of it is... junk.

G1: Moderator (00:24:48): Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. And which social media platform do you think is more credible over the others, if you had to choose one of the ones?

G1: LD (00:24:56): Um, it's... I mean, I think they're all equally credible. It depends on the person who's posting.

Candidates and political campaigns are not being used as sources of political news.

Only one person mentioned that they follow political candidates or groups on social media, with most others consuming social media political news through media sources or friends who post on the subject. Participants shared that they are not actively seeking political information on social media, nor are they following candidates and campaigns.

G1: Moderator (00:22:23): Do you follow any political pages or political candidates or political groups? [inaudible 00:22:29].

G1: LM (00:22:28): I try not to. I'm trying not to.

G1: Moderator (00:22:29): Why is that?

G1: LM (00:22:32): (Laughing) It's just... Uh, 'cause with me, sometimes it just becomes a lot.

G1: Moderator (00:22:38): When you say a lot, what do you mean?

G1: LM (00:22:39): Just a lot of information and a lot of opinions. A lot of things that you have to, again, sift through to kind of see what works for yourself-

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA (Cont.)

G1: Moderator (00:25:03): Okay. Do you follow any political candidates or political pages?

G1: LD (00:25:07): Yes.

Moderator (00:25:08): Which ones do you follow?

G1: LD (00:25:09): I follow all of the political candidates from the last, like, two elections.

Moderator (00:25:14): Mm-hmm. The national or local?

G1: LD (00:25:16): National. Um, and, well Colorado. But not local Denver and-

G1: Moderator (00:25:20): So, statewide and national?

G1: LD (00:25:22): State and national. Yeah. And then, I just keep follow[ing] them during [the] campaign and I just keep them going because I wanna see what they're saying. But I don't, like, use that for a news source necessarily. Like, if I wanna know what's going on in the world, or in my city [I'm] not, like, going to their feeds to see what it is.

G1: LM (00:22:04): So I really don't look at [social media] as a news source for my myself. It's just more of entertainment. Um, Facebook, like she said, you kind of just sift through who's posting what, you know?: Even like your friends, you know? There's a few friends that I trust 'cause they watch the news and they see things and they'll post their opinions or whatever.

Participants noted no difference between English and Spanish news.

For this English dominant group, they expressed that their trust in English and Spanish media was the same, with one admitting they have a limited understanding of Spanish. Overall the group did not share that they consumed a lot of Spanish-language news media.

G1: Moderator (00:19:05): What about Spanish language media versus English, English language media? Do you think one's more trustworthy than the other, or don't know, or don't really pay attention, or no opinion?

G1: AG (00:19:18): I never considered it 'cause I thought they were identical to each other.

G1: Moderator (00:19:22): Mm-hmm. Okay. You think, you think of them as the same? Okay. Anybody else?

G1: MB (00:19:25): Probably the same.

G1: Moderator (00:19:27): The feel of it is the same?

G1: MB (00:19:28): Yeah. Yeah. 'Cause my husband will watch Telemundo or whatever. Um, he has [it] on and he'll watch news and I kind of listen and I can kind of pick up some of it. I'm not real fluent in Spanish but I can pick up some of the news and it sounds about the same on our side.

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FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Participants viewed good citizens as not racist and committed to diversity.

There was consensus among the group that a good citizen helps others. The issue of diversity, equity, and inclusion was brought up in the discussion, as a good citizen was seen as someone who stands against racism. Racism was seen as a growing problem that has gotten worse throughout the years.

G1: MB (00:29:30): Well if, like, if someone says, they're inclusive, diverse, then they go out there and they fight for that, or they show that they're a part, you know, that they really mean that, I'm really gonna go out there and I'm gonna hire people who are diverse... [and] be inclusive with everybody and not just one race. I just feel like there's such a problem with racism right now that, you know, it, it's nice to see so many people who really [are] fighting for that.

G1: LM (00:31:31): [A good citizen is] people that... see beyond, you know, what race you are, see beyond, you know, if you're a man or a woman, you know, a child or a baby. You know, just see beyond that and just wanna help and wanna be genuine, and, just have a... all around good heart and spirit. I think is a good citizen.

G1: AG (00:32:52): That's what I said, there's, there's more hate.

G1: MB (00:32:54): I didn't see it when I was younger... then I kinda grew and I had my kids and I still wasn't, I was still okay. And then all of a sudden within the last 20 years, 15/20 years, all of a sudden it's, it's huge and it's out there, and it's, it's...

The group believes that good citizens have a connection with their community and act in the best interest of that community.

Several participants believe that a good citizen has a connection with the community at large and that they are acting in the interest of that larger community, rather than just for themselves. There were religious undertones to the discussion, suggesting there is a moral aspect to being a good citizen. Voting was noted as an act of a good citizen, but the connection to community seemed to carry greater weight.

G1: AJ (00:30:25): I think the word citizen implies some sort of, like, civil duty, or like, you know you're in some sort of context, like, citizen of Denver, or citizen of America, or something. So I would say on top of [being] genuine... you know, walking the walk and talking the talk, but, maybe beyond that like seeing value in where you live and what you're a part of your community. And maybe working to bring that potential value to fruition to-

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES (Cont.)

G1: AG (00:36:46): You could just get involved in- you vote in elections. You pay your taxes. You follow the rules, you know, get, be religious, or you could be, you could be anything. But you, but you just gotta be nice, you know? That's what it is.

G1: Moderator (00:37:06): Do you see yourself as a good citizen?

G1: AG (00:37:06): Yep. I think I'm a good citizen. I'm a catholic from east Denver, I grew up around Kurdish Park. I've been going to Holy Ghost Church for 60-something years now. And I still drive from way in southwest Denver to go to Mass at, uh, Holy Ghost Village. I'm religious to that extent- every Sunday I go to church you know. And I keep the Ten Commandments, most of the time.

It was expressed that voting is an act of civic duty and is a learned behavior.

A few participants noted that it was their civic duty to vote in elections, one of which was a Vietnam veteran. One participant shared that their parents were the ones who shaped their perspective on voting.

G1: MS (00:39:52): It was more instilled with my parents and, they were like, "Well, you know that's your civic duty that you live in a free country. So, you know, you have a right to cast that vote." And even when I went to school at Wade College-

G1: AG (00:50:14): We have to vote. That's our duty as a citizen...

There was agreement that barriers to voting in Colorado are low because ballots and informational “blue books” are mailed directly to voters. However, the blue books are viewed as containing confusing language for the average voter to understand.

There was consensus among the group that voting was a simple process in Colorado because it can be done by mail. Ballots are sent to every registered voter with many options of how to submit the mail-in ballot. Additionally, participants express positive attitudes about the “blue book” that is mailed with each ballot that explains what is on the ballot and the argument for each side. Several shared they use the book to help them make decisions, However, when probed, they did not appear to trust it completely and believed it contained confusing language for the average voter to understand.

G1: Moderator (00:41:23): Is it pretty easy to vote here?

G1: R (00:41:26): I think it's very easy to vote here.

G1: LD (00:41:27): Yeah, everybody gets a mail-in ballot. And then it'll come with instructions of, like, where there's live vote, you know, in person. The name or where the drop off spots are.

G1: R (00:41:39): They'll just mail it to you automatically.

G1: AG (00:41:40): ... if, if you're registered. If you're registered.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 1

Moderator (00:42:21): And y'all, do y'all read the book? You look at it?

G1: MS (00:42:22): I do.

G1: R (00:42:22): Yeah.

G1: LD (00:42:22): Yeah.

G1: MS (00:42:23): This last election I did because it was so, we had a lot.

G1: R (00:41:59): It's a blue book and it has the analysis of all of the issues.

G1: LD (00:42:03): The pros, the cons.

Moderator (00:42:06): They mail that to you?

G1: LD (00:42:07): Yeah.

G1: AG (00:42:07): Well, it's in the book of all the instructions too though.

G1: LD (00:42:10): Yep.

G1: MS (00:42:10): It's actually kinda nice-

G1: LD (00:42:11): Because the book-

G1: MS (00:42:12): ... because that you see-

G1: LD (00:42:12): ... because you can highlight it. (laughs)

G1: MS (00:42:12): ... what you're gonna vote for.

G1: G1: Moderator (00:42:57): Mm-hmm. Okay. And y'all trust this book?

G1: R (00:42:59): Not, not entirely-

G1: LD (00:43:01): Some of it.

G1: R (00:43:01): ... some, some of it is slanted. It's written by the politicians-

G1: Moderator (00:43:03): Yes, right.

G1: R (00:43:04): ... to benefit their pet causes.

G1: LD (00:43:06): Yeah.

G1: R (00:43:06): So there's been some very biased stuff that have been in some of these books.

G1: Moderator (00:43:12): Really? You all agree with that? Do you all agree with what R said or you disagree?

G1: LD (00:43:15): I agree with it.

G1: MS (00:43:16): Yeah.

G1: LD (00:43:18): I think it's very informative though, because it helps you digest, like, some of the questions, I mean, I live in Englewood, we're arguing back and forth about the... the way that the questions are worded because they'll put double negatives in the question. So it give you, like, a heads up of what the ballot questions are gonna, how they're gonna be worded so you can digest it earlier.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Participants believe that education is key to success.

Several participants cited education as an important issue to them, as they see education as providing an opportunity to succeed in life

G1: AG (01:20:55): They're starting to realize though that they're important. That they have Hispanic influences in their, in their parties. You know? They need them now.

G1: MS (01:21:03): Yeah, but...

G1: AG (01:21:03): But they had a disadvantage for... I'd say my age group. I'm 75, but say my age group. When I was 18, you had to go get a job. You know? Just, if your parents looked at you like you did, you had to. So, we're missing out on our education, but as we grew up, I had children. My two... My three children went to school, to college, and uh, my daughter is an attorney. So, they're education levels go up. We're starting to catch up education wise with, uh, the white people. You can't blame them. They had money. They sent their kids to college, but now we're starting to catch up. We've got people that are better educated. The Hispanics, all the Hispanic chicks that you see working on TV, and they've got good jobs, and they're fluent, and they're translators.

G1: MB (01:03:59): I think education of all of these is something that could help... I mean, I work in education, but I'm not talking about academia and in learning biology. I'm talking about educating everyone of how to fix, how to help with all of this... You know, the economist[s], I think are a big part of that, th[ey] need to come in and, and start helping people to realize, how do we, how do we make the inflation go down, and what are we... We all need educat[ion] in how to work around these systems and to make it better. So, I need more education on how to do that. The economists, are the people who are, the numbers people, the people who are gonna, uh, hopefully help. Uh, so, I think that it's, that's how some are...

The state of the economy is the most important issue, and participants worry about making ends meet.

A majority of the participants said that they were most concerned about the economy and inflation. These concerns were not just about the current rising costs, but how this would affect their and their family's financial futures. Most of the participants rated crime as an important issue, while immigration only seen as most important by two.

G1: Moderator (00:08:08): Okay. J, MB, what, what's concerning you right now?

G1: J (00:08:12): I would say the same. The economy.

G1: Moderator (00:08:13): Economy. Okay. And when you say the economy, what do you mean by-

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES (Cont.)

G1: J (00:08:16): *Just the rise in inflation. Um, I know that's gonna shift or I'm hoping it will shift and it will get back to normal soon. But I would say that, yeah, the economy and the stocks and 401Ks, and it's a little concerning.*

G1: MB (00:08:29): *I think all of them. All of... Everything that's been mentioned, and I'm also concerned about, like I said, I have four grandkids. Wondering what their life's gonna be like as they become adults.*

G1: LM (00:09:25): *You know, for gas alone to even, you know, come out to do stuff like this or to even do interviews... it really does make difference now.*

G1: R (00:09:45): *Um, just the economy as a whole, it is just so bad for everybody especially lower income people. Um..it is just hurting people and making people, making different choices than they would otherwise and not be able to really live their life.*

G1: Moderator (01:08:53): *Okay. All right. Uh, what about crime and public safety, what were some of the numbers that you all put [out of 10] for, crime and public safety?*

G1: LD (01:09:01): *Eight.*

G1: Moderator (01:09:02): *Eight.*

G1: J (01:09:02): *10.*

G1: R (01:09:02): *10.*

G1: Moderator (01:09:04): *10. We got some 10s, here.*

G1: AG (01:09:04): *10.*

G1: LD (01:09:05): *Eight.*

A rise in drug use, specifically fentanyl, concerns many of the participants and they feel that the government is contributing to the problem rather than solving it.

Drugs were specifically seen as a growing problem, in particular fentanyl. Several expressed that the government was contributing to the problem, rather than solving it because of the programs that provide drug users with needles or drugs that keep them from overdosing.

G1: Moderator (01:10:06): *Mm-hmm. Do you think drugs are a problem in Colorado?*

G1: MS (01:10:08): *Yes.*

G1: R (01:10:09): *It's a huge problem and politicians are giving the drug-addicts a pass, here.*

G1: Moderator (01:10:14): *Okay. I mean what kind of drugs?*

G1: R (01:10:18): *Well, fentanyl is killing people-*

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 1

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES (Cont.)

G1: AG (01:11:55): And now... fentanyl, the cocaine, they manufacture it, it's manufactured. When it gets to the street and some of the, some guy just has, like, oh, no cheap so-and-so, they mix it up, that's when people die.

G1: LD (01:12:19): Those drugs out there, you don't even know what they are, right? There's so many really weird drugs out there, and you see people, like, on the corners, just-

G1: AG (01:12:27): Oh, fentanyl's an opioid.

G1: LD (01:12:28): They'd be out of... Thank you. Completely out of their mind, and I have no idea what they're on, but that is not, like, marijuana. That, is, it's something-

G1: J (01:11:39): Yeah, no, I completely agree, and not only that, it's the doctors are still prescribing them. I mean, I had got my wisdom teeth out. I asked them not to prescribe me anything, and they still gave me a prescription. So, it's, it's all for the money. It's pathetic.

G1: MS (01:12:42): They give them syringes, so that they can dose themselves. And, I get the concept, because they want them to be clean, so that they don't get sick and they die of that- So, I just don't understand. Um, you know, we're trying to advocate, not, to have drugs. But, in turn, our city's giving needles to people that are doing drugs.

G1: AJ (01:13:11): Yeah.

G1: MS (01:13:11): To keep them clean. So-

G1: AJ (01:13:13): And, like, reviving the-

G1: MS (01:13:14): Yeah.

G1: AJ (01:13:15): Reviving that.

G1: MS (01:13:16): Yeah, exactly. Everybody's a human being, I get that. But, if you really want to help the, to treat them, get them into a program. Try to, try to... I mean...the person has to get into a program by themselves.

G1: R (01:11:24): Just walk out downtown. Walk out, a few blocks, here. There are open air drug markets. And, they had to enclose the, the big city center park, here, just because it was so bad-

G1: LM (01:11:33): So many needles. Yeah.

G1: R (01:11:34): ...with the drug dealers and drug users.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES (Cont.)

Participants see the economy as affecting several other critical issues in society.

Discussions about what “economy” meant, ranged from costs of goods to interest rates to housing to gas prices. The economy is seen as a large system where several issues are encompassed, including healthcare.

G1: J (00:56:01): So, to me, when I say economy, or I hear the word, economy, I think of, you know, like, inflation [and] the government. The issues that we're having here, locally, [and] nationally. Um, so, to me, that's what the economy is.

G1: Moderator (00:56:18): Okay. Okay. Um, I think, R, you also, had mentioned-

G1: R (00:56:21): Yes.

G1: Moderator (00:56:21): Yeah.

G1: R (00:56:22): I put the economy, also, because all of these feed into the economy. These are, pretty much, all subsets of what's going on in the economy, and I'm very pessimistic, right now. I think we're headed for a recession.

G1: Moderator (00:56:37): Okay. What makes you feel that?

G1: R (00:56:41): The Fed is poised to raise interest rates. Um, inflation at 8 1/2 percent. The worst it's been in 30 years. And, the Feds have never been able to engineer a soft landing when inflation has been this bad.

G1: LM (00:57:06): You know, my biggest concern too, is like, for my family, like, even my step-kids. You know, they can't even afford to live on their own, with their children, um, because of rent. Even mortgage, you know, trying to qualify to buy their own home, um, for their children, and I think that's... You know, we're having to get bigger homes, yes. But, having multi-families in these bigger homes, and things are just slamming them.

G1: LM (00:57:39): And, I think that's what's scary, you know, even the gas. Like, I like to travel. It's, that, now, is something that's really coming into our budget. Well, can we really afford the gas to go, you know, especially with the vehicles that we have nowadays, is that really feasible?

G1: LD (01:02:54): And, I was grappling with what, um, R was saying, like, the Venn diagram of these. But healthcare, I think, is just a very broken system in our country, and it's very difficult to right-size that. And, there's a lot of issues within, the way it works, the way our insurance works, the way that medical professionals charge, and the billing side of it. It's just this very giant complex system that is continuing to go down a bad path for the population... The reason I select that, as one of the most important, is because it's, like, very e-economically driven. Um, and, at some point, the entire system will just fail.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES (Cont.)

Perception of the current economy is bad because they feel it in their own pocketbooks and lived experience.

A number of participants noted that their lived experiences were indicators that the state of the economy was not good and that the pandemic was a primary trigger for the condition. They are experiencing a rise in costs, while salaries remain stagnant. Several expressed that Hispanic families are experiencing greater hardships because many are low income wage earners.

G1: AJ (00:11:05): We have a similar experience with, um, LM, I'm married to a teacher also. And I exited the workforce as a teacher because we had a kid at the start of the pandemic, and just the cost of, you know, like, ho- trying to find childcare and getting paid basically. What it would cost to pay for childcare at that same time. It doesn't really make sense, but also it's like, "Well, there's no, no way we can make money..." You know? Like, you have to have two incomes these days, um, especially if someone's a teacher to, uh, make things work. So I think it's just... And like the gas, you know, all the receipts, all the things that are costing way much, so much, so more money.

G1: MS (01:01:09): Food is becoming more expensive. And, I think about, um, the families that are, you know, maybe making that minimum wage, and how they are affording food, right now, because it is just extremely... I mean, I think milk went up, like 40%. Eggs, you know, 30%, and just your basic staples, have gone up extremely. And so, you know, we used to go get, uh, bread, milk, cheese, eggs, uh, meat, it would cost you, maybe for a family, you know, \$75, and that's, actually, tripled now.

G1: Moderator (01:01:51): Do you think that affects Hispanic families more severely?

G1: MS (01:01:54): Yes, it does.

G1: LD (01:02:14): Some of the populations that are lower income, are affected by it sooner, faster. We have a small business and employ four people, and have been giving them, like, King Super's gift cards and stuff, just, as like, little incentives because there's, you know..We're watching the cost go up. We're not watching our revenue go up, but I have, and they don't. So, we're- ... just, making a little-

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES (Cont.)

Participants expressed support of the Black Lives Matters call for justice, but not calls to defund the police.

One participant noted that while they support equality, they do not support efforts to defund the police. They see crime as on the rise and the need for additional police officers to address these problems. Others in the group concurred.

G1: MS (01:09:19): Which, I think, we're kind of seeing now. I know, with George Floyd? With all that stuff that happened to him and the Black Lives Matter or sayings, we don't need the police officers, we should do away funding for the police. Oh, no, you cannot do away with funding for the police. They keep everybody safe.

G1: AG (01:09:46): Oh, nobody wants to take money away from the police-

One participant shared that the issue of abortion is a motivating factor for voting as well as financially contributing to political campaigns.

One participant, who was pregnant, noted that abortion was the most important issue to her, as she saw it as a moral issue. This issue served not only as a motivator to vote, but also as a reason to make political contributions. The participant was pro-life, and believed that abortions in Colorado could be given “in the delivery room.”

G1: AJ (00:58:10): Well, I may, I might be standing alone, here, but to me, the most important one is the abortion issue. And, I would say, I understand, like what you were saying about, everything being under the economy. But, to me, abortion is more of a moral issue. And, the other ones are more, like, some big issues, and I understand that there's implications for that. But in my own beliefs...that's the most important.

G1: AJ (00:58:47): I would say, I mean, Colorado's, kind of, one of the most liberal abortion rights, states. And, to me, I would say, it's heartbreaking that people can have an abortion up to in the delivery room, you can have an abortion, now in Colorado.

G1: Moderator (00:59:49): So, AJ, uh, in this particular issue, does that drive you to vote, when you-

G1: AJ (00:59:53): Oh, yeah.

G1: Moderator (00:59:53): ...you have [inaudible 00:59:54].

G1: AJ (00:59:54): Yeah, we, I mean, not only vote, but donations-

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

Neither political party was viewed in a completely positive way, and neither was seen as producing real results. Instead, the parties are thought to mainly bicker amongst themselves.

Neither of the parties were net viewed as extremely positively among the participants. Democrats were described as “tax and spend,” yet they were described as still focused on “the people” and social programs. Republicans were described as racist, anti-immigration and more focused on the rich and big business, yet better on the economy. Participants shared frustrations about political parties not being able to work together to get things done. There was no mention of other political parties.

G1: R (00:10:24): But the biggest thing that bothers me is the fact that Democratic and Republican politics that we vote for, that they can't get along with each other and all these things don't get done because they don't get along with each other.

G1: AG (00:59:36): It doesn't matter, Republican or Democrats, they don't have it right, and fight with each other, and hate each other.

G1: Moderator (01:16:14): Okay. Let's start winding it down here. So, what are some of the things that you wrote down... What are the first things that came to your mind when we read the Democratic party?

G1: MS (01:16:28): Free money.

G1: Moderator (01:16:29): Free money, is what MS wrote. Okay.

G1: R (01:16:31): I have spend on everything.

G1: Moderator (01:16:33): Spend on everything.

G1: R (01:16:34): Raise taxes.

Moderator (01:16:35): Raise taxes.

AJ (01:16:36): Big government.

G1: Moderator (01:16:37): Big government. Okay. What else? LD, what did you write?

G1: LD (01:16:41): Redistribution of wealth, pro-choice, handouts.

G1: R (01:16:45): Soft on crime and immigration.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS (Cont.)

G1: Moderator (01:17:28): Okay. What are some of the things that y'all wrote for the Republican party?

G1: MS (01:17:33): I put racist elites.

G1: Moderator (01:17:36): Racist elites.

G1: J (01:17:37): Quick to judge people of color.

G1: Moderator (01:17:39): Quick to judge people of color.

G1: R (01:17:42): Anti-immigration.

G1: Moderator (01:17:43): Anti-immigration.

G1: R (01:17:45): Less regulation and lower taxes.

G1: Moderator (01:17:47): I didn't...

G1: R (01:17:49): Less regulation and lower taxes.

G1: Moderator (01:17:50): Lower taxes.

G1: AG (01:17:52): Except for the rich.

G1: AJ (01:17:53): I said, lower taxes with a question mark, and then small government.

G1: Moderator (01:17:58): Okay.

G1: LD (01:18:00): I put financial benefits for the wealthy, against abortion, and retention of assets and resources.

G1: Moderator (01:18:08): What else... What did you write, LM?

G1: LM (01:18:11): I wrote money.

Participants feel that political parties are taking Hispanics for granted, with Democrats less so.

While the Democratic Party was viewed as more welcoming to Hispanics, some participants expressed that the Party was taking them for granted. And there was a mix of opinions about whether Republicans were also taking Hispanics for granted, with most feeling that they do. Participants expressed that the focus has been on them as a voting bloc, rather than on the issues that Hispanics care most about.

G1: Moderator (01:18:25): Thinking about these political parties, do you think whether they are welcoming or not, or inviting to Hispanics? What do you think? Do you think the political parties, either one of them, are inviting to Hispanics?

G1: MB (01:18:40): Democrats, yes.

G1: R (01:18:42): I think they both take Hispanics for granted.

G1: Moderator (01:18:44): I'm sorry. We'll... MB first, and then R.

G1: MB (01:18:46): Sorry. Democrats, I'd say yes [they are inviting to Hispanics], Republican, no.

G1: Moderator (01:18:51): Okay. What makes you say that, MB?

G1: MB (01:18:55): I think it comes from growing up, you know, me and having the aunts and the uncles, and everybody, all in it, saying- giving influence to all of us, And then seeing it once we grew up, and look at things. You know, it's always been... The Democrats have always played more of a part in the Hispanic lives.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 1

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS (Cont.)

G1: Moderator (01:19:23): Okay. R? You were saying something.

G1: R (01:19:26): I think they both take Hispanics for granted.

G1: J (01:19:48): Well, I'll agree. I think it's a lack of respect.

G1: Moderator (01:19:51): Lack of respect you say, J?

G1: J (01:19:52): Yeah.

G1: Moderator (01:19:52): Okay.

G1: MS (01:19:57): I think they need us, but they want... They want us, but they need... You know?

G1: Moderator (01:20:03): Both parties?

G1: MS (01:20:03): Yeah, both parties.

G1: AJ (01:20:08): Yeah, I was kind of going to say, um, and I think everyone kind of, wants a token, "Okay, we get that Hispanic vote," or you know, "Let's just, make sure we've got the identity part...the identity politics of the, Hispanics there," but, not necessarily, looking into all the issues that we, some of the Hispanic people, would care about. I think sometimes it comes back to wanting to tell you what you need. Like, "Okay. Well, I'm a Dartmouth College grad, and I'm telling you, you need to be Mexican ... needs to be on this social program."

G1: AJ (01:22:07): ...thing AG was saying, and also R, like taking it for granted... I think just recently they're reporting that the Biden administration's got like 11 percent lower approval rate now ... for Hispanic voters it's dropped 11 percent since he's been in office...there's some good things that are being won, but I think that they're not really doing what they say they might.

G1: Moderator (01:22:35): What are some of the Hispanic issues that they're ignoring? I think R mentioned a couple. What are some of the issues, or Hispanic issues that are being ignored.

G1: MS (01:22:43): I think education. That's probably the biggest one. I think they're really... You know. They put us on the back burner a lot.

G1: MS (01:22:52): Like, they don't treat us like we have intelligence, I think.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS (Cont.)

While Democrats' social programs are supported in theory, in practice, participants expressed concerns about the party's ability to fund them.

The Democrats' position on student loans forgiveness was viewed as positive, yet it was also a point of criticism. They associated this program with Democratic Party spending and suggested that Republicans were more fiscally responsible.

G1: Moderator (01:26:32): Think about it. Anybody else? What do you think Democrats are doing well on?

G1: MB (01:26:35): Education?

G1: Moderator (01:26:36): Education, okay.

G1: MB (01:26:36): Because they're doing a lot of the, um, paying for their grants. Paying off their school tuition. That's starting to take effect now. I'm seeing people being forgiven for their school loans.

G1: MS (01:27:16): I think the Republicans look at how a program is going to be paid for. And that's where LD said, they look at the long term. How is it going to be paid for? You know? Where I think the Democrats just kind of tell people what they want to hear.

It was expressed that Hispanic candidates serve as motivators to get out the Hispanic electorate.

Participants shared that it was important to have qualified, Hispanic candidates on the ballot, and that these kinds of candidates made them more inclined to participate in an election.

G1: Moderator (00:43:37): I want you to think back to an election that you participated in, what do you remember about the election? What made you vote? What made you enthusiastic or interested in that particular election?

G1: MS (00:43:53): I think it was my very first election. Probably the presidential election.

G1: AG (00:43:58): I think it was, uh, voting for Federico Peña for Mayor of Denver.

G1: MS (00:44:02): Yeah.

G1: AG (00:44:03): That was important.

G1: Moderator (00:44:04): That was important to you?

G1: MS (00:44:05): Mm-hmm.

G1: AG (00:44:05): Important, yeah.

G1: Moderator (00:44:05): What was important about that? What, 'cause he was...

G1: AG (00:44:07): Well he's had a lot of firsts, he was an intelligent, intelligent attorney as well. I mean, he was...qualified for his job.

G1: Moderator (00:44:14): Was it important that he was Hispanic for you?

G1: MS (00:44:20): Yeah.

G1: AG (00:44:20): Of course yes. Yep that too.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS (Cont.)

There was consensus that Republicans were best on the issue of the economy,

meanwhile there was no consensus on which issue Democrats were best.

Most of the group believed that the Republican Party does a better job on the issue of the economy. One participant noted that Democrats were for social programs but were not sustainable. They view Republicans as better stewards of public dollars. There was mixed reaction on what issues Democrats did better on, with healthcare being among those discussed, though not with conviction compared to Republicans and the economy.

G1: Moderator (01:24:46): Let's just talk about the economy...Who does a better job on the economy, the Democrats or Republicans?

G1: MS (01:24:53): I say the Republicans do.

G1: Moderator (01:24:55): Republicans.

G1: R (01:24:55): Republicans.

G1: Moderator (01:24:57): Republicans...What makes you feel the Republicans are good on the economy? R?

G1: R (01:25:04): I think they have a better understanding of basic economics and pursue economic policies that are geared toward world and home inflation, greater productivity, I think it's just.. Um, better stock market performance, there's uh-

G1: AG (01:25:22): Yeah, and they got real well in the seventies and eighties when they were brought in, with the oil thing, you know.

G1: Moderator (01:25:28): Okay. Uh, LD? You said that the Republicans do a better job on the economy?

G1: LD (01:25:36): Yes.

Moderator (01:25:36): Okay, and what makes you feel that way?

G1: LD (01:25:39): I think longer term economic strategies than...Versus the Democratic party of recent history, with significant large spending on programs that aren't sustainable.

G1: Moderator (01:25:55): Okay, but what, what, what are Democrats doing well on these lists that we see here? Are Democrats doing well on any of these issues?

G1: MS (01:26:04): Probably health care.

G1: AJ (01:26:05): Maybe, yeah.

G1: Moderator (01:26:06): Health..

G1: AJ (01:26:06): I hope. (Laughs.)

G1: MS (01:27:16): I think the Republicans look at how a program is going to be paid for. And that's where LD said, they look at the long term. How is it going to be paid for? You know? Where I think the Democrats just kind of tell people what they want to hear.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS (Cont.)

Participants suggested that the key to getting Hispanics to vote is to convince them that their vote matters.

When it came to messages that should be delivered to Hispanics on voter registration and voting, a number of participants focused on the notion of “your vote matters” and can make a difference, and connecting their vote to the issues that matter most to them. Voter education was also noted as something that was needed. Two participants noted that a message about the civic duty of being an American would be effective.

G1: Moderator (01:31:22): What would be the change in order to get more Hispanics to vote in local and presidential elections? What do you think would need to change in order to get more Hispanics involved in, or voting in elections? Anybody? What do you think needs to change?

G1: LD (01:31:52): Actually talking to them and not about them.

G1: Moderator (01:31:55): Talking to them, not about them. Okay. LM?

G1: J (01:31:59): Education.

G1: Moderator (01:32:00): Education? From whom?

G1: J (01:32:02): Just educating them on-

G1: Moderator (01:32:03): Who should be educating them?

G1: J (01:32:05): Just, us as a whole. I mean - the people that are voting. They don't necessarily have to try and impact one side, but just to kind of get it out there.

Bad candidates contribute to low voter participation.

Participants believe that many Hispanics do not participate in elections because of the choices of candidates. Candidates are viewed as not good choices or simply as crooks.

G1: Moderator (00:45:43): You voted in all of them? Okay. But when we talk to people that we know, it could be a coworker, a family, or friends. What are some of the more common reasons that you hear people give to say that they're, you know, that sometimes they don't vote in elections? What are some of the things you hear people say?

G1: LD (00:45:55): Probably the most common one that I have heard over multiple elections have been, like, they're both terrible, doesn't matter.

G1: R (00:46:06): Yeah, they're all crooks.

Former President Trump was not mentioned during the focus group discussion.

While President Biden was mentioned three times during the focus groups, Donald Trump was not. He was not mentioned in any of the discussions about their perception of the Republican Party.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

FOCUS GROUP 2 PARTICIPANTS

Focus Group Profile: Hispanic Non-Registered Citizen Conducted in English

- 2 female and 3 male
- Income range between \$10k - \$100k +
- Education:
 - 2 high school diploma or less
 - 2 some college
 - 1 college graduate
- All participants were from bilingual households except for 1

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Female	22	Mexican	Unsure	G2: C
Male	22	Mexican	Independent	G2: DM
Female	39	Mexican	Unsure	G2: DF
Male	29	Puerto Rican	Democrat	G2: DA
Male	22	Mexican	Independent	G2: IJ

Key Findings: Group 2

SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

- Participants shared that they do consume political news, though it is limited.
- There was a lack of trust in the media among the participants, and several shared that they do not use social media.
- A general lack of interest in politics keeps participants from participating in civic life.
- The participants' lived experiences tell them about the world around them.
- Newspapers are not dominant sources of information for the participants.

SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

- Participants believe that a good citizen makes the world better for others, not just for the person.
- These participants choose to not be registered to vote and decline to do so when directly asked to by others.
- Participants shared that there is an aspect of Hispanic culture that makes it uncomfortable to talk about certain topics, and politics was believed to be among them.
- A lack of information about an election, or the inability to fully comprehend what is on the ballot contributes to the participants not participating in electoral politics.
- Skepticism toward institutions leads to withdrawal from civic engagement for these participants
- Participants expressed that the two-party system makes them less inclined to participate in political life.
- Participants shared that from their perspective, voting doesn't matter.
- Participants shared that nothing will convince them to vote, not even pleas from close family

Key Findings: Group 2 Continued

SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

- No group consensus among the group on the most important issue.
- Male participants view abortion as an issue where government should not interfere.
- While participants care about the issues, they simply don't think they themselves can have an impact on issues, positively or negatively.
- Russia was important to one person because of the implications it has here at home.
- Drugs, specifically fentanyl, were described as a major and growing problem.
- While the group did not raise the issue of crime and drugs, when prompted, there was agreement that fentanyl was a major problem affecting their community. The problem was seen as stemming from the recreational use of drugs.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

- For these participants, perceptions of the political parties are broad.
- Because they view the Republican Party as racist, Hispanics who identify with the Republican party are seen as "bad" people.
- No political party loyalty was expressed among the participants, but feel that both parties are starting to take notice of Hispanics
- Participants expressed that Democrats win on the immigration platform, but lose on not being able to deliver on those promises.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Participants shared that they do consume political news, though it is limited.

While participants shared they consume political news from a variety of media sources, from social media to cable news to local news to newspapers, they did not express actively seeking it out. If they did, they went to local news, and it is consumed via television and through social media. None follow political figures on social media.

G2: Moderator (00:13:00): Okay, do you watch cable news or like network news? So...

IJ (00:13:04): Um both.

G2: Moderator (00:13:25): Yeah. Do you uh, do you guys watch, ladies do you watch the news? Do you catch the news? Do you watch it on TV? Do you look at it on an app or anything?

G2: C (00:13:35): I just be like scrolling through my Facebook and I always see a lot of articles, but-

G2: Moderator (00:13:40): Okay. Yeah so you get news through Facebook? Okay. What about you DF?

G2: DF (00:13:44): Local news.

Moderator (00:13:45): Local news? Uh-huh.

G2: DF (00:13:47): Fox. Fox.

G2: IJ (00:15:36): But yeah, TV news like I'm old fashioned. I'll pick up the newspaper.

G2: Moderator (00:15:39): Oh you do pick up the newspaper? Which, uh the Denver Post?

G2: IJ (00:15:42): Yeah, yeah. So if I see that in the store I'm always, I'll pick it up and read it and what not.

G2: DF (00:17:55): So I can't give my opinion on that but I mean on Facebook you can go to like the actual Fox news.

G2: Moderator (00:18:02): Okay. The actual page.

vDF (00:18:04): Yeah, the actual page and it's reporting the same news that they put either on TV or updates.

G2: Moderator (00:16:42): Now do you follow any political figures or anybody on G2: Facebook?

G2: C (00:16:46): No.

G2: Moderator (00:18:15): Mm-hmm (affirmative). DA do you have any like apps on your phone? Do you have a smartphone?

G2: DA (00:18:20): Yes.

G2: Moderator (00:18:21): Do you, do you have any apps on there like news apps? Like um...

G2: DA (00:18:26): No. That's a waste of a smartphone. Makes it a dumb phone.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA (cont)

There was a lack of trust with the media among the participants, and several shared that they do not use social media.

Participants expressed distrust toward social media, yet still a source of political information though they do not actively pursue it. Two participants shared that they do not use social media at all for personal use, and are the same who feel they lack information to participate in civic activities such as voting.

G2: Moderator (00:14:46): Yeah. So between Tik Tok, Instagram and Facebook, which one do you think's more credible?

G2: DM (00:14:54): Probably none of them.

Moderator (00:14:54): None of them?

G2: DM (00:14:54): Because each one's like, each one says something different so I don't really know which one to believe. I just read it. And kind of create my own average news article.

G2: Moderator (00:15:05): Yeah. What about you IJ? Do you use any social media?

G2: IJ (00:15:08): Uh nah, I don't have any either.

G2: Moderator (00:15:08): Yeah.

G2: IJ (00:15:08): No social media.

G2: Moderator (00:17:06): Okay. Okay. DF what about you? What social media do you use?

DF (00:17:10): I don't have anything personal, for personal.

G2: Moderator (00:14:05): No Facebook. You don't - oh do you do any social media at all?

DA (00:14:09): Uh no because I'm too busy in real life with other things.

A general lack of interest in politics keeps participants from participating in civic life.

Two participants appear to be disconnected from society and political life, are disinterested in politics and don't keep up with the news and are more concerned with personal issues. When asked about voting, they said they just didn't care.

G2: Moderator (00:13:52): So what about you DA, where do you get your news from?

G2: DA (00:13:55): Uh, I don't honestly watch any news.

G2: Moderator (00:13:58): You don't watch any news at all?

G2: DA (00:13:59): No.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA (cont)

G2: Moderator (00:16:22): Okay. And then of those, which one do you think is the most credible that you use? Facebook or Snapchat? Which of, or between Facebook and Snapchat, which one do you ... Well does Snapchat, Snapchat has news right? Cause you have the ...

G2: C (00:16:38): I don't know. I'm not really.

G2: Moderator (00:16:39): Not really? So just Facebook has news?

G2: C (00:16:41): Probably, yeah.

G2: Moderator (00:16:42): Now do you follow any political figures or anybody on Facebook?

G2: C (00:16:46): No.

G2: Moderator (00:16:46): What, what kind of things do you do on Facebook? You just follow your friends and family or?

G2: C (00:16:50): Yeah. I'm just sharing funny stuff.

The participants' lived experiences tell them about the world around them.

Participants are not actively seeking information about what is happening in their communities through the media. Instead they learn about community issues through lived experiences and from friends and family who are posting on social media.

G2: Moderator (00:13:06) Okay. What about you DM, what's uh where are you getting your information from? Where are you getting your political news or information?

G2: DM (00:13:14): Every time I have to fill up my gas. That's where I get my information.

G2: Moderator (00:13:17): That's your information right?

G2: DM (00:13:20): Yeah, me swiping the card.

G2: Moderator (00:13:25): Yeah. Do you uh, do you guys watch, ladies do you all watch the news? Do you catch the news? Do you watch it on TV? Do you look at it on an app or anything?

G2: C (00:13:35): I just be like scrolling through my Facebook and I always see a lot of articles, but-

Newspapers are not dominant sources of information for the participants.

One participant shared that they read the newspaper on occasion, but see print and broadcast news as essentially the same.

G2: IJ (00:15:36): But yeah, TV news like I'm old fashioned. I'll pick up the newspaper.

G2: Moderator (00:15:39): Oh you do pick up the newspaper? Which, uh the Denver Post?

G2: IJ (00:15:42): Yeah, yeah. So if I see that in the store I'm always, I'll pick it up and read it and what not.

G2: Moderator (00:15:47): Mm-hmm (affirmative). So what do you trust more, the newspaper or TV? What do you think, what do you trust more?

G2: IJ (00:15:52): I think they're almost the same. Like, it's both just publications getting interviews and like being journalists so I think they're both the same.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Participants believe that a good citizen makes the world better for others, not just for the person.

The concept of being a good citizen is connected to moral obligations to society and honoring social contracts. There were also religious undertones in their understanding.

G2: Moderator (00:18:39): What do you think it means to be a good citizen?

G2: DA (00:18:57): Thou shall not kill, thou shall not steal.

G2: Moderator (00:19:02): Okay. What else?

G2: DA (00:19:05): Sharing with one another.

G2: Moderator (00:19:28): Okay, okay. DM, what about you? What do you think a good citizen is?

G2: DM (00:19:32): Um, helping each other out. Bringing each other up. Not trying to bring other people down.

G2: Moderator (00:19:36): Mm-hmm (affirmative). Mm-hmm (affirmative).

G2: DM (00:19:38): Don't throw things out the car window.

Moderator (00:19:40): Don't throw things out the car window? Okay. Does that mean like littering or?

G2: DM (00:19:44): Yeah. Like I see it a lot. People just shove McDonald's bags out or something.

These participants choose to not be registered to vote, and decline to do so when directly asked to by others.

All of the participants have been asked to register to vote at one time or another, but refuse to do so. They are simply not interested in voting, despite being asked by friends and family to do so. The more they are asked, the less likely they are to comply. They are making a conscious choice not to register to vote.

G2: DM (00:23:14): They'll be walking around with a clipboard and then they'll ask, like hey are you registered to vote? Do you want to be registered to vote?

G2: Moderator (00:23:20): What do you say?

G2: DM (00:23:21): I'll usually just say like some other time. I'm in a hurry.

G2: Moderator (00:23:21): Okay.

G2: DM (00:23:21): I'm not in a hurry but.

G2: Moderator (00:24:36): (laughs) DM what about you? You, what are the reasons why you don't want to register to vote?

G2: DM (00:24:41): It's not that I don't want to, I just don't care to.

G2: Moderator (00:24:42): You don't care to?

G2: DM (00:24:43): Yeah.

G2: Moderator (00:24:43): Why is that? What's it like um just ...

G2: DM (00:24:48): I don't know, I guess my family will vote for me. I just tell them who I think and if we all agree then that's who they vote for.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES (Cont.)

G2: Moderator (00:23:55): So why don't you want to be registered to vote? Just curious.

G2: C (00:23:58): I don't know, I just, I don't know.

G2: Moderator (00:24:05): There's just, never interests you?

G2: C (00:24:07): Yeah. I just don't really kinda like it, not that I don't care for it, but I don't know.

G2: Moderator (00:28:29): Okay. C, what about you? Do you feel like you understand voting?

G2: C (00:28:32): Mm, I guess not really, no.

G2: Moderator (00:28:34): You don't?

G2: C (00:28:35): Just whatever my sister tells me cause my sister is like that too. She, like last year, she's like sis you gotta vote, like I'll help you. I was like I for sure, like I got you but I don't know I just forgot about it. I was busy.

G2: Moderator (00:29:54): DM, what do you think? The more people pressure you the less you wanna do it or you don't, it doesn't really matter?

G2: DM (00:29:59): I feel like if I'm even getting slightly inclined to doing something whatever it is, and someone starts to pressure me then I stop being open about it.

G2: Moderator (00:30:06): Mm-hmm (affirmative).

G2: DM (00:30:08): But if I have no like feeling about doing it or even inclined at all to do it, then it doesn't really matter, but it's only like when I'm thinking about doing something and then people start telling you, oh you're a bad person for not doing this, and oh my god, I'm just not even doing it.

Participants shared that there is an aspect of Hispanic culture that makes it uncomfortable to talk about certain topics, and politics was believed to be among them.

Participants shared that voting is a learned behavior that has not been taught to them. One shared that Hispanic culture discourages conversations about politics.

G2: DF (00:30:29): I remember saying how there's a, a saying that I don't know if you've heard it but I'm sure you know, in a lot of the Hispanic culture, [inaudible 00:30:40] culture...You don't talk about money, you don't talk about um religion, and you don't talk about your, you know, what is it? Democracy. You know, your...

Moderator (00:30:50): Yeah, politics.

G2: DF (00:30:51): Politics.

G2: Moderator (00:30:51): Yeah.

G2: DF (00:30:52): You know, cause it always causes chaos.

G2: DF (00:31:18): But we didn't grow up with like hey, you should do this and you know, with the, you know, you got to vote.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES (Cont.)

A lack of information about an election, or the inability to fully comprehend what is on the ballot contributes to the participants not participating in electoral politics.

The group was either unfamiliar with or knew little about the voting process and the informational Blue Book that is sent to voters. Those who were familiar with it, found it to be intimidating because of the number of pages. One participant shared that they feel they did not understand the voting process and did not have enough information to participate, despite being asked by close family members to do so.

G2: DF (00:26:27): Um, I guess the first, first and foremost is like I just never really understood how the voting process worked.

Moderator (00:31:58): You don't know? So apparently there's this, they send you, anybody who's registered to vote they send them this like a blue book. Have y'all heard about this blue book? Does anybody know about the blue book? You know about the blue book? C do you know about the blue book?

G2: C (00:32:13): No.

G2: Moderator (00:32:14): IJ, you don't know?

G2: IJ (00:32:14): No.

G2: Moderator (00:32:15): DM, you don't know?

G2: IJ (00:32:16): Is it the one that gives you options to vote for a person for this and then to vote for a person that's doing this?

G2: Moderator (00:32:22): It's supposed to be like I think it is. Do you know what it is, DF?

G2: DF (00:32:25): I don't know exactly what it is but I've seen it because it comes to my house for my brother.

G2: Moderator (00:33:50): So how, how do you get the mail ballot? They mail it to you or how does that go about?

G2: IJ (00:33:55): I think they mail it to everybody. I'm not quite sure though. I don't even know to be honest.

G2: Moderator (00:34:31): Okay. Does anybody else know? C do you know anything about what it takes to vote?

G2: C (00:34:35): I don't.

G2: DF (00:32:56): It's a lot of pages. That's for sure. Cause I mean for a blue book to get to your house it is, for me it's pretty thick but it's not like a ...

G2: DM (00:33:06): It's like a CSAP test or I don't know what it's called now but when I was in school it was called a CSAP.

G2: Moderator (00:33:08): Yeah. Do you think you need to read that book to vote?

G2: DM (00:33:11): I don't know, I haven't read it.

G2: DF (00:33:15): I have no idea.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES (Cont.)

G2: DF (00:28:00): *So I mean, I didn't, for me that's why I don't take an interest in voting.*

Moderator (00:28:07): *Okay.*

G2: DF (00:28:08): *And if I, if I vote, am I truly voting cause I just, you know, cause I want to? Cause they see it? Cause then is it really gonna make a difference or is it you know? Or is it just that I'm voting just because?*

G2: Moderator (00:28:23): *Mm-hmm (affirmative).*

G2: DF (00:28:24): *So I feel like I have to actually fully understand something, not for me to actually follow through with it.*

Skepticism towards institutions leads to withdrawing from civic engagement for these participants.

Participants express distrust and frustration with the justice system and the government in general, which makes them feel detached from the larger society. They are connected to family and community, they simply don't participate in civic activities.

G2: DA (00:20:19): *Well, I I I challenged whoever said being truthful ...*

G2: Moderator (00:20:25): *Okay.*

G2: DA (00:20:26): *Because in the judicial system, you should keep your mouth the fuck shut.*

G2: Moderator (00:20:32): *(laughs)*

G2: DA (00:20:35): *Doesn't matter if it's the truth or the lie. You have the right to remain silent.*

G2: IJ (01:07:51): *Um I put nothing because the overall voting system is outdated for my needs as a citizen. And what, what I mean by that is like when I look at the current voting structure, I don't think that like for me, I don't think it's like something I would like to participate in.*

G2: DA (00:44:25): *Well yeah. It's really important uh because it's just so slow, the process of all this crap and it's just so slow. Whenever it's the government, expect to uh be waiting a while.*

Moderator (00:44:42): *Mm-hmm (affirmative). You think that's true about all the government things that offer or just immigration?*

G2: DA (00:44:46): *Uh, yeah. Except for maybe the public library.*

Participants expressed that the two-party system makes them less inclined to participate in political life.

Participants feel disenfranchised within the two party system and see the parties as labels rather than organizations that represent particular values. One participant also noted that this system limits the choices of candidates.

G2: IJ (01:09:30): *Yeah, I heard of that too but like, like for example the green party wasn't even mentioned really in this whole focus group just to show you how much like the different like different types of parties aren't really like um, really why we recognize. I don't think there's been a green party president in like maybe all of the years of presidency but I'm not quite sure.*

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES (Cont.)

G2: DA (01:10:37): Yeah. I have a more clear choice of options. There needs to be better options for candidates and all that. If that could be achieved then I would [inaudible 01:10:47]

G2: Moderator (01:10:47): What's a better option? What's a better option for you?

G2: DA (01:10:50): There's more options than two. Like, I mean, initially there is in the beginning stages but I think perhaps if we could see, see more options at the end stages where ...

G2: Moderator (01:11:10): Okay. DF what did you write down? What would it take to get you to register to vote?

G2: DF (01:11:16): So I wrote I'd like to have a better understanding. Of um, you know, how to vote, and then what it means to actually have a [inaudible 01:11:35].

G2: Moderator (01:11:35): Okay. To have a what?

G2: DF (01:11:35): A tag.

G2: Moderator (01:11:36): Tag?

G2: DF (01:11:37): The tag. Um, you know, of democracy, republican, I'm affiliated and so like, what I don't understand.

Participants shared that from their perspective, voting doesn't matter.

Participants shared that they don't register because they don't think their vote matters. One participant noted the electoral college disenfranchises voters. The group also expressed the choice of candidates is limited and they would like more than two options.

G2: Moderator (00:21:41): Has anybody ever come up to you and said you should register to vote?

G2: DF (00:21:59): Yes.

G2: Moderator (00:22:00): Yeah? What do you tell them?

G2: DF (00:22:04): [inaudible 00:22:04]

G2: IJ (00:22:03): I don't want to.

G2: Moderator (00:22:04): You don't want to? Why don't you want to?

G2: IJ (00:22:04): I mean, I don't want to. It's not enough like choices and it's not enough choices in the people in my community and like voting to me is like, it's not gonna really change a whole lot like more of the change comes from like the local level of like if you really wanna change something, so like yeah.

G2: Moderator (00:23:55): So why don't you want to be registered to vote? Just curious.

G2: C (00:23:58): I don't know, I just, I don't know.

G2: Moderator (00:24:05): There's just, never interests you?

G2: C (00:24:07): Yeah. I just don't really, not that I don't care for it, but I don't know.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES (Cont.)

G2: Moderator (00:25:29): Is there anything that I mean, that makes you feel like you don't want to vote? Or is it just like, is there a reason you don't feel like voting or registering to vote or?

G2: DM (00:25:37): Oh I guess it's a really dumb reason actually.

Moderator (00:25:40): There's no such thing as a dumb reason. [inaudible 00:25:44]

G2: DM (00:25:44): If I were to vote right for somebody and that person wins and the whole country just goes to crap, I feel like it's partly my fault, where if I don't vote for anyone, I can't take any responsibility.

G2: DF (00:27:05): I never took interest. Um, now that he's explained a little bit of it, now it's like okay my vote may count for this but in reality what votes really they take into consideration and who actually, whose vote actually counts? It's not really a public vote. It's somebody else's right? Because our votes go, from my understanding, I could be wrong.

G2: Moderator (00:27:31): No, no that's ...

G2: DF (00:27:31): So our votes go from here all the, and there's another group of people I'm not sure what they're called but there's that other group of people. They're the ones taken into consideration but their votes are the ones that truly count towards the votes of the presidential, is that how it works?

G2: Moderator (01:10:23): Okay. But there's nothing else that really compels you to want to go register to vote?

G2: DM (01:10:26): I mean, nothing that comes to mind mainly because nothing has happened yet, right? If something were to happen and then my thoughts changed then yeah, but.

G2: Moderator (01:10:32): Mm-hmm (affirmative). Okay. DA, what did you write down?

G2: DA (01:10:37): Yeah. I have a more clear choice of options. There needs to be better options for candidates and all that.

G2: Moderator (01:10:43): Mm-hmm (affirmative).

G2: DA (01:10:44): If that could be achieved then I would [inaudible 01:10:47]

G2: Moderator (01:10:47): What's a better option? What's a better option for you?

G2: DA (01:10:50): There's more options than two. Like, I mean, initially there is in the beginning stages but I think perhaps if we could see, see more options at the end stages where ...

G2: Moderator (01:11:04): There's just that down to two parties, it's more.

G2: DA (01:11:06): Yeah.

G2: Moderator (01:11:06): Okay.

G2: DA (01:11:07): It's a little bit routine as far as options are concerned.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES (Cont.)

Participants shared that nothing will convince them to vote, not even pleas from close family.

Some participants shared that nothing will make them want to register to vote. They simply don't care for politics, it doesn't interest them. Several noted that they had been asked by friends and family, specifically siblings, to vote, yet they declined to do so.

G2: Moderator (01:04:59): Okay. Um, C I was going to ask you. Is it, you know, your sister was trying to really get you to vote. Is there anything your sister could have said to you that would have made you register to vote or do you feel like there's nothing that could ever make you register to vote, you're just completely, there's nothing that could change your mind? Nothing?

G2: C (01:05:17): Um, I don't think so.

G2: Moderator (01:10:23): Okay. But there's nothing else that really compels you to want to go register to vote?

G2: DM (01:10:26): I mean, nothing that comes to mind mainly because nothing has happened yet, right? If something were to happen and then my thoughts changed then yeah, but.

G2: C (01:12:02): Um I put nothing because I don't really know. I don't really understand, I don't really care for it.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

No group consensus among the group on the most important issue.

Each of the respondents identified a different issue as being most important to them. Rising costs of gas prices and inflation, climate change, abortion, immigration and education were all named. When discussing the issue of immigration, those who expressed concern had a family member who was experiencing difficulties with immigration status.

G2: Moderator (00:09:37): what are some of the things that are concerning you right now? Like what's on your mind? What what's, what are you thinking about?

G2: DM (00:09:52): Gas prices.

Moderator (00:09:53): Gas prices? Yeah, what about gas prices?

G2: DM (00:09:58): Mm, they're high. I haven't seen them that high since like, way before I was even able to drive.

G2: DF (00:41:55): Uh frustrating. It's a little irritating. Uh, you know, have some kind of news or you ask and they just give you the runaround. Um, so you know, the concern is okay. My husband's mom just recently had a pre-heart attack. Um, you know? If she would've had a heart attack, if she would've passed away, he would've left and then out the door goes the whole process.

Moderator (00:42:22): Everything.

G2: DF (00:42:22): Right, the money that the cost that it actually takes.

Moderator (00:42:25): How much have you spent?

G2: DF (00:42:27): Over 10 thousand dollars. I've spent about I think 15 thousand so far.

Moderator (00:42:32): Mm-hmm (affirmative). And still no, nothing.

G2: DF (00:42:34): And that includes attorney fees and application fees.

Moderator (00:42:37): Do you know other people that are going through the same thing that you are right now?

G2: DF (00:42:41): Yeah, and other people with a record and already have a residency. Like it's just off and they started after us, so I mean, and then you think about it is the attorney but then it's not out of the attorney's hands cause it's in reality it's all the already in what's it, the US [inaudible 00:43:02].

G2: DM (00:43:21): Cause like a lot of my family, um at least on my mom's side they were like doing like the documentation and all that to be legal citizens and it's crazy how like she was mentioning that cause like my uncle started the process two years ago and he already got his worker's permit and everything, so he's pretty close to getting it.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES (Cont.)

Male participants view abortion as an issue where government should not interfere.

Male participants expressed that the issue of abortion was not important to them, yet they felt that it should remain legal and is a personal choice rather than the government to decide.

G2: Moderator (00:46:41): So you think it's more that an individual should make that decision?

G2: DA (00:46:42): I think it's more an individual should make that decision.

G2: DM (00:46:57): But as far as my whole body, my choice, I think women should have their choice as to whether they do it or not. I don't think it should be chosen by the government whether you can or can't.

While participants care about the issues, they simply don't think they themselves can have an impact on issues, positively or negatively.

While many issues are very important to the participants, they do not feel that participating in electoral politics will have an effect on the issues. These attitudes seem to be rooted in a lack of self efficacy.

G2: C (00:45:07): Uh I just think it's important cause obviously I'm a woman like I wanna have the right to choose.

G2: Moderator (00:45:47): Do you think, do you see a connection between voting and sort of maintaining that right to choose or do you see a connection at all? Or do you think it doesn't matter what if you vote or not, abortion's gonna just kinda go in its own way?

G2: C (00:46:00): Yeah. It doesn't, it doesn't matter.

Moderator (00:46:02): You, you don't think it matters? Even though it's, you, you don't feel like your, your vote or your voice could make a difference in that?

G2: C (00:46:09): I don't think so.

G2: DF (01:11:51): And how to actually, or understand the voting process.

G2: Moderator (01:11:57): C, what did you write down?

G2: C (01:12:02): Um I put nothing because I don't really know. I don't really understand, I don't really care for it.

Russia was important to one person because of the implications it has here at home.

One participant noted that the issue of Russia/Ukraine was important because he believed it affected many other critical issues. He recognized the effect of geopolitical issues on domestic policy.

G2: Moderator (00:47:07): Okay. Let's uh let's see. I think we already ... Anything you want to talk about Russia or Ukraine IJ? I think you mentioned World War III. Is there anything else you want to share about why that's so important to you?

G2: IJ (00:47:18): I just think like that can affect a lot of the issues on this list so like for example it can affect the economy or like it could also affect like education but immigration I'm pretty sure like immigration would be even more up because of people trying to like leave from Ukraine.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES (Cont.)

Drugs, specifically fentanyl, was described as a major and growing problem.

While the group did not raise the issue of crime and drugs, when prompted, there was agreement that fentanyl was a major problem affecting their community. The problem was seen as stemming from recreational use of drugs.

G2: DF (00:49:14): No, there's a, there's an issue. There's a lot of overdose on fentanyl. There's a lot of people right now being found dead over because they've gone to do some cocaine, little did they know that that cocaine had that fentanyl and they died. They're doing, they're doing one drug but they don't realize that it has another one and it's, it's affecting,

G2: DM (00:49:46): Yeah. I would agree with that. Like when they cut up cocaine and all that and use fentanyl a lot of people don't know that it has or what the process is behind it so they just do it no problem without worrying. And like I've known a lot of people that I went to school with too that can't get anywhere like out from where they already were before because they were just doing drugs, all their money goes to drugs, their focus goes to drugs.

G2: C (00:50:42): Yeah. I know a lot of people who have drug addiction, family members, friends. It's sad. It's a huge problem.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

For these participants, perceptions of the political parties are broad.

Participants describe the political party using value language, ideology, issues, and political personalities. Biden and Obama were specifically associated with the Democratic Party, while only Trump was associated with Republicans.

G2: Moderator (00:52:37): So what did you write on democratic party?

G2: DA (00:52:45): Well democratic means that ...

G2: Moderator (00:52:49): What did you write?

G2: DA (00:52:55): Wrote power to the people and more taxes for corporations.

G2: DM (00:53:01): I wrote Barack Obama, climate change, and the color blue.

G2: Moderator (00:53:29): But when I say democratic party, what's the first thing that comes into your mind? Just when I say democratic party. What pops into your head? Anything?

G2: DF (00:53:36): Biden.

G2: DM (00:54:22): Well it's not whether it's positive or negative it's just things that like climate change for example, um it's just something I feel like the democrats really focus on.

G2: Moderator (00:54:35): (laughs) All right, all right. Uh, okay let's look at what y'all wrote for the Republican party. So DA, what did you write for the Republican party?

G2: DA (00:54:45): I wrote the Republican party is more into war and gun rights and all that and ...

G2: Moderator (00:54:52): Gun rights? Okay.

G2: DA (00:54:53): And using more rights for corporations with less taxes for corporations.

G2: Moderator (00:54:59): Okay.

G2: DA (00:54:59): Less, I guess, rights for people [inaudible 00:55:01].

G2: Moderator (00:55:01): You said less rights for people? Okay.

G2: DA (00:55:02): Or less at least focus on people.

G2: Moderator (00:55:04): Less focus, okay. Uh, and DM what did you write?

G2: DM (00:55:10): Trump, taxes, gun rights and the color red.

G2: Moderator (00:55:13): Okay. And are those negative or positive in your mind?

G2: DM (00:55:18): Uh, positive.

G2: Moderator (00:55:19): Positive. Okay. IJ, what did you write for the republican party?

G2: IJ (00:55:23): I wrote red, right, and conservative.

G2: DF (00:56:20): And when you asked me, it's Trump.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS (Cont.)

Because they view the Republican Party as racist, Hispanics who identify with the Republican party are seen as “bad” people.

One participant described party affiliation using morality and racial frames, expressing that Hispanics are more aligned with Democrats, and those who are Republican were “bad” people because they want to be White.

G2: Moderator (00:57:14): Oh, okay. So you were being facetious. Okay. All right, uh, DM, what about you? Um, do you think the parties are welcoming to Hispanics? Do you, do you see them?

G2: DM (00:57:26): Yeah, from what I notice it's like the democratic party is more welcoming to Hispanics than the republican cause and then like the democrats are like if you're a Hispanic that's republican a lot of democrats are like oh you you're Hispanic or are you republican? ...When Trump was president I noticed it a lot. It's like if people were Republicans that were Hispanic they were just bad people because they wanted to act like they were white or better than someone else and ... but I think that's true. No but it's like what I heard a lot.

No political party loyalty expressed among the participants, but feel that both parties are starting to take notice of Hispanics

One participant noted little difference between the two parties, with another participant noting both positive and negative issue positions for each. There was consensus within the group that both parties are now starting to pay attention to Hispanics.

G2: DF (00:53:22): This goes for both of them, like what, what is a democrat and what is a republican, the difference.

G2: DM (01:00:40): No, I do. Because it's like climate change trying to fix that is positive for the democratic party and then like gun rights, taxes, and all that is also positive for the republican party, so it's like [inaudible 01:00:51].

Moderator (01:00:51): So you have a positive view of both parties you think?

DM (01:00:53): Yeah. Certain things from each one.

G2: DM (01:01:09): Not full facts. The republican party I feel like is more against immigration.

G2: Moderator (01:01:16): Okay.

G2: DM (01:01:16): So, that to me would be a negative. And then the democratic party is really for gun control which to, for, to me personally is a negative. I feel like you should have the right to own and bear arms.

G2: Moderator (01:00:12): So, can I just see [inaudible 01:00:14] from a, yeah, show, show of hands, do you have a, a, I guess I'm gonna go through each party. Do you think of the democratic party as a positive or in a negative way? So if you think of the democratic party positively, raise your hand. Nobody? What? DA says yes. DA's got his hand up.

G2: DM (01:00:30): What if I don't have an opinion on it? Can I just not raise my hands?

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS (Cont.)

G2: IJ (00:58:04): Um, I think like like they'll be more open to whoever vote they could get so like if that includes like the Hispanic community they will probably like run a campaign you know to try and like get more voters but that could probably go for both parties I think.

G2: Moderator (00:58:22): Mm-hmm (affirmative).

G2: DF (00:58:24): I think they're barely starting to focus on the Hispanic vote.

G2: Moderator (00:58:25): Oh yeah? What makes you say that?

G2: DF (00:58:29): Just seems like recently now they're really focusing on trying to get more, more votes, so.

G2: Moderator (00:58:35): How do you know? How do you know? What did you read?

G2: DF (00:58:39): Just, I'm trying to think or remember like where I heard or where I've seen you know.

G2: Moderator (00:58:46): Mm-hmm (affirmative).

G2: DF (00:58:49): I get, again, it's going back to my brother but.

G2: Moderator (00:58:50): That's okay.

G2: DF (00:58:50): Cause I think he said like um, you know, they have all the voters that can give them all these other, other races or other ethnicities, but the least voters that they usually get are Hispanics and I think that, or at least I think, that now they're trying to get more Hispanics and now I feel like now they're focusing on what interests Hispanics to try to get them to vote more. So now that the focus is on taking interest in, you know, what they're interested in, they're gonna get more voters on that.

Participants expressed that Democrats win on immigration platform, but lose on not being able to deliver on those promises.

Two of the participants said they align more with the democratic party, however on the issue of immigration, they questioned the Party's ability to deliver outcomes.

G2: Moderator (01:03:04): What about you DM? Which party do you agree with more and on which particular issues? I think you said immigration, right?

G2: DM (01:03:12): Yeah. Well I guess again it just depends on the party.

Moderator (01:03:14): Yeah.

G2: DM (01:03:14): For immigration, I agree more with the democratic party, or at least what they portray, I don't actually know what all they actually do for it.

G2: Moderator (01:04:05): Okay. Let's go to the very end. I'm sorry DF. I didn't go to you. G2: Which one um do you think is uh more aligned with what you uh with what you agree with? So which party do you agree with more and on what two issues?

G2: DF (01:04:25): I'm not really familiar with either [inaudible 01:04:27] but from what um I hear and what I, I think is um probably the democratic party.

G2: Moderator (01:04:37): Mm-hmm (affirmative). Okay.

G2: DF (01:04:38): Um, which was with respect to immigration and I think, correct me if I'm wrong, I think democrats raised taxes more for the higher industries than those who are more low-income, you know?

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 3

FOCUS GROUP 3 PARTICIPANTS

Focus Group Profile: Hispanic Registered Voters with History of Voting Conducted in Spanish

- 6 female and 3 male
- Income range between \$20k - \$100k+
- Education:
 - 2 high school diploma or less
 - 2 some college
 - 3 college graduate
 - 1 postgraduate
 - 1 no response
- 1 participant was from a Spanish-only household, 2 were from Spanish dominant speaking households, 4 from households that speak both languages equally, 1 was from an English-dominated household, and 1 had no response.

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Female	49	Mexican	Democrat	G3:F
Female	66	Other	Democrat	G3: AM
Female	32	Mexican	Democrat	G3: AA
Female	28	Mexican	Independent	G3: EP
Male	63	Mexican	Democrat	G3: R
Female	62	Puerto Rican	Republican	G3: EO
Male	51	Mexican	Republican	G3: J
Male	73	South American	Republican	G3: H
Female	55	Mexican	Independent	G3: 0

Key Findings: Group 3

SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

- Participants consume media in both Spanish and English from a variety of news sources ranging from local to national to international.
- Several participants subscribe to on-line services that present them with a selection of news stories each day.
- Newspapers are included among the media that several participants consume, however, they are not reading the printed paper. Instead, they are accessing the newspaper online.
- Generally, participants expressed distrust in media, particularly Facebook, which was criticized for engaging in censorship.
- Although there is general distrust toward social media platforms, Facebook and TikTok are more trusted than others because of video content. Rumble was characterized as offering more conservative content, though its credibility was not addressed.
- Participants seek news from international sources, believing them to be more credible than American news. Fact Checking services in the U.S. were also not trusted.

SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

- Perceptions of a good citizen reflected a wide range of understandings about their societal roles and actions. Participants believe that good citizens care about others in the community, pay taxes, and are informed voters.
- Participants believe that civic education is needed in schools because Hispanic families are not teaching children these concepts at home. One participant believes there is a connection civic education to morality and religious responsibilities.
- One participant shared that because the government is failing to address local issues, it is the duty of individual citizens to help those in need.
- Barriers to voter registration are low, as personal stories reveal that community organizations are going to citizens where they are, like grocery stores and parks.
- Republican participants expressed distrust in elections, specifically as it relates to mail ballots.
- Participants are familiar with the informational Blue Book that is mailed to every voter, however, they do not utilize it for making voting decisions.
- When asked about their personal reasons for voting in the recent elections, participants shared that they were voting for their moral values combined with issue positions, particularly in presidential elections.
- One Republican participant blames the downturn of the economy specifically on Biden.
- Participants are reluctant to participate in elections they don't know much about.
- Participants believe that Hispanics don't vote because they don't think anything will change. They also shared that the Electoral College discourages them from voting.

Key Findings: Group 3

SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

- Participants shared that they are most concerned with inflation, the economy, and rising prices. They are concerned about how they will continue to make ends meet.
- Several participants indicated that they have concerns about the rise in crime, particularly gun violence, and deaths related to fentanyl.
- When participants talked about Immigration, it was framed in relation to jobs and not political asylum.
- The Republican participant believes that public schools are teaching sex education to young children in kindergarten. He expressed his opposition to this type of teaching.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

- Political parties are viewed along ideological lines, with Republicans thought of as better on the economy and Democrats better with Social Programs.
- Left-wing Democrats were described by the Republican participant as “socialists.”
- Ronald Reagon is remembered as delivering on immigration and having strength and courage.
- Independents in the group feel positive and negative about both political parties.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Participants consume media in both Spanish and English from a variety of news sources ranging from local to national to international.

The participants shared that they are consuming news from a variety of sources including traditional television and online, in both English and Spanish. They choose news sources that inform them of local, national, and international events.

G3: F [00:23:10]: The news. During the day I don't usually have much time to... but in the evening I try to catch the news, to see what's going on.

G3: Moderator [00:23:19]: In English or Spanish?

G3: F [00:23:21]: [00:23:20] Both, but preferably in Spanish.

G3: Moderator [00:23:24]: Local or national news?

G3: F [00:23:26]: Both. I watch both. They show the national news and then ... the state news, the news from Colorado.

G3: Moderator [00:23:37]: Cable or regular television?

G3: F [00:23:39]: No, regular. Channel 41, Telemundo.

G3: Moderator [00:24:26]: What do you mean when you say Google? What's the site like?

G3: EO [00:24:29]: Well, I'm subscribed so every day when I go on the news, it just shows there. I also get international news.

Several participants subscribe to online services that present them with a selection of news stories each day.

Participants are exposed to news from feeds they subscribe to on-line, like Google News and Apple News. These services deliver national and international news daily to their smartphones, and from those stories, they choose which to select and read..

G3: EO [00:23:54]: No, I search Google every day.

G3: Moderator [00:23:58]: Google?

G3: EO [00:23:59]: I have news on Fox and I read different newspapers every day.

G3: AA [00:24:48] : Apple News.

G3: Moderator [00:24:49]: Apple News.

G3: AA [00:24:49]: Yes.

G3: Moderator [00:24:50]: [00:24:50] They just appear on your phone?

G3: AA [00:24:52]: Yes.

G3: Moderator [00:24:54]: Without you looking for it, it just appears.

G3: AA [00:24:57]: Yes, I just have a page where I can see all of Apple News

G3: Moderator [00:25:00]: Apple News local or national? Could you explain? What is the news like?

G3: AA [00:25:05]: National.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA (Cont.)

G3: H [00:34:54]: Trust? Well, I don't trust anything I can't prove myself. I read a lot, to check things out. I'm subscribed to a lot of news sites that give and send me notifications here, and if the story interests me I go and read it to see if I like it, and then I decide. But I think it's important to read different things to find out what everybody is thinking, not just the people you agree with.

Newspapers are included among the media that several participants consume, however, they are not reading the printed paper. Instead, they are accessing the newspaper online.

Several participants shared they are seeking out newspaper coverage, however primarily through digital access and not the printed paper. They read a variety of publications in both English and Spanish and appear to trust them as news sources, relatively speaking.

G3: AM [00:29:38]: I read the newspaper [00:29:40] on my phone.

G3: Moderator [00:29:41]: You read it on your phone?

G3: AM [00:29:45]: Yes.

G3: Moderator [00:29:43]: Which one?

G3: AM [00:29:44]: Denver Post.

G3: EO [00:23:59]: I have news on Fox and I read different newspapers every day.

G3: Moderator [00:24:06] Interviewer: So, newspapers on the Internet.

G3: EO [00:24:09]: Yes.

G3: Moderator [00:24:10] Interviewer: You don't read printed newspapers.

G3: EO [00:24:11]: No.

Generally, participants expressed distrust in media, particularly Facebook, which was criticized for engaging in censorship.

Overall the participants do not trust the media, especially Facebook, and it is described as “gossip.” Also, Facebook is perceived as exercising too much power, and they cite Trump being banned from the platform as an example of this behavior.

G3: J [00:28:44]: From my phone. Look what happened two years ago when Donald Trump was disallowed from Facebook. That was like saying: "Shut up, I have more control than you." Donald Trump did something bad, but he was vetoed by Facebook.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA (Cont.)

G3: Moderator (00:25:06): Where do you get local news, then?

G3: AA [00:25:10]: Gossip. [laughs]

G3: Moderator [00:25:11] Interviewer: Gossip?

G3: AA [00:25:12]: Sometimes Facebook, but I don't watch local news much.

G3: Moderator [00:25:15]: When you say gossip, do you mean Facebook?

G3: AM [00:25:28]: Facebook has little truth and a lot of lies.

[laughter]

G3: Moderator [00:25:32]: Little truth and a lot of lies.

G3: R [00:25:33]: I was going to say the same thing, because when you look on the Internet you see programs that are similar to news, but it's just someone who makes a site to see what CNN was saying, but they're making up all the news. You have to be very careful with what you hear on the Internet.

G3: Moderator [00:25:55]: What media do you all trust most?

G3: H [00:25:58]: You have to be careful with all the propaganda there is everywhere. They come through the television, through the radio, through newspapers. You have to see where the person writing is coming from, or where they're communicating the news from.

G3: EP [00:26:23]: I don't trust any of them.

G3: Moderator [00:26:23]: You don't trust any of them? Is that right?

G3: EP [00:26:25] Edith: Not anymore, to tell you the truth. I don't trust anything or anybody. Seeing how things are in the world today, it's not like--

G3: Moderator [00:26:36]: Did you have trust before and then suddenly you lost it?

G3: EP [00:26:40] Edith: Yes, I used to watch Fox News or ABC News more. So when I'm at work in the morning I do watch some--

G3: Moderator [00:26:49]: What made you lose your trust?

G3: EP[00:26:51]: Well, everybody lies.

Although there is general distrust toward social media platforms, Facebook and TikTok are more trusted than others because of video content. Rumble was characterized as offering more conservative content, though its credibility was not addressed.

Social media, specifically Facebook and Tik Tok, are more trusted than others because of video content offered to subscribers, though Facebook is described as having racist content.

Participants shared that they do not follow political figures or political campaigns. Rumble was mentioned by the Republican participant and described as having more conservative content.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA (Cont.)

G3: Moderator [00:32:27]: Between Tik Tok and Facebook, which one do you trust more?

G3: EP [00:32:30]: Tik Tok.

G3: Moderator [00:32:31]: Tik Tok?

G3: EP [00:32:31] Edith: I think so.

G3: Moderator [00:32:32]: Why?

G3: EP [00:32:33]: Because of the people, I don't know. Looking at the webpage, watching the videos and all those people talking-- I mean, I don't know, it has a lot of information, too much information. When I go to Facebook I sometimes get news and everything. I can click on a video and watch a news clip, but I don't exactly see all that is happening.

G3: F [00:33:05]: I only use Facebook.

G3: Moderator [00:33:06]: That's it?

G3: F [00:33:07]: Yes.

G3: Moderator [00:33:08] Interviewer: Do you follow political figures?

G3: F [00:33:10]: No, I don't check the news much. I check my Facebook two or three times a week, maybe two times a week.

G3: H [00:34:35]: And I'm starting to check out Rumble.

G3: Moderator [00:34:40]: Rumble, yes, that's new, right?

G3: H [00:34:42]: Yes, it's like YouTube, only more conservative.

Participants seek news from international sources, believing them to be more credible than American news. Fact Checking services in the U.S. were also not trusted.

Participants expressed distrust in the U.S. media, some because they believe that media owners have political agendas and that the stations are bought and sold. This distrust in American media pushes them to consume more international news. Even fact checking sites and organizations were scrutinized by one in the group.

G3: J [00:27:15]: I think it makes a lot of sense to think that many TV channels have been bought by certain political parties. What I do most is search for geopolitical analysts, because that's where you see where the Russia, Ukraine, United States conflicts are going. It's very easy to say "Russia is responsible because they want to invade Ukraine," but we don't know what's behind it all. So I think it's best to search for a geopolitical analyst and see what they think.

G3: Moderator [00:28:05]: Where do you look for that? Where do you find that?

G3: J [00:28:08]: They're everywhere, on Facebook, YouTube, Google. You just have to look for that person. I'm not going to go to Fox News or any of those other ones that are bought like Univisión, Telemundo, because they've all been bought.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA (Cont.)

G3: H [00:25:58]: You have to be careful with all the propaganda there is everywhere. They come through the television, through the radio, through newspapers. You have to see where the person writing is coming from, or where they're communicating the news from.

G3: R [00:35:48]: There's one I use called Fact Checker which searches for all the correct ones, because many people post lies on the Internet.

G3: H [00:35:59]: You now have to be careful with those fact checkers too because-

G3: R [00:36:05]: They're smart, they're scientific, and-- Things from the court make up things.

G3: J [00:36:12]: It all depends too on-- For example, which car do you like? No, I'm just asking, what car do you like?

G3: O [00:37:21]: Well, sometimes they explain news better in English, in Spanish they sometimes tell it too fast and that's it, while in English they sometimes explain it more thoroughly. That's the difference I find. But still, to check facts and all that I look at the English and then at the Spanish news to see if they're saying more or less the same thing, because it's true what you're saying that so much news is manipulated so how are we supposed to know? Because they sometimes say the same thing through many channels, and you think ``"Well, okay--," and you trust it, you think it might be true. But you can't really trust anything nowadays, as you've all been saying. For the same reason.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Perceptions of a good citizen reflected a wide range of understandings about their societal roles and actions. Participants believe that good citizens care about others in the community, pay taxes, and are informed voters.

A good citizen cares about and takes care of the community and neighborhood and pays taxes. Also has a moral compass and feels an obligation to give back by doing community service. Participants also expressed that a good citizen should be educated with current events, politicians and parties, and make informed choices when voting.

G3: EO [00:40:37]: I think a good citizen is someone who cares for their community, who has values, pays taxes most of all, and has a moral concept of what is right and what is wrong. It doesn't necessarily have to do with religion, it can be a higher power that they perceive, something that guides them, because we better not start discussing religions either because that subject is very-- People who care about what's happening in their community, what's happening around them.

G3: Moderator [00:41:19]: F? What is a good citizen? What does that term mean?

G3: F [00:41:24]: I agree with what she just said. Someone who cares about their neighborhood, about their community, someone who likes to do social service. I think that's it.

G3: H [00:41:45]: I think a good citizen has to dedicate him/herself to getting educated on what's happening in their country, in their community, so their values relate to what they're focused on and so they can decide how to vote, what candidate or party to support. Seeing what's best for the country, not just to serve it, but also to make it good for everybody. That's something we don't have in this country right now. Everyone is fighting and nobody wants to see what might be best for everybody, the economy, crime rates, everything that is happening. Different opinions come from all sides, but nobody wants to dedicate him/herself to fixing something. I dedicate myself to several things and one of them is politics, but I inspect candidates closely to see how they think and what they are voting on for everyone. Just look at what we have in this state now. I'll say it, the US administration is a disaster.

G3: H [00:48:56]: And you need to give a smart vote, not just vote because this person has the letter D or R or is Independent, you have to look at the candidate's profession, what they think, and if they're aligned with your values. If everyone voted according to their values we'd have a better country, but we're all just fighting for Democrats, Republicans, Independent candidates, and nobody wants to check what each candidate really does, so look what we have now.

Participants believe that civic education is needed in schools because Hispanic families are not teaching children these concepts at home. One participant believes there is a connection civic education to morality and religious responsibilities.

Several participants expressed that civic education is not being taught to children in schools. They believe that individuals must take responsibility to educate themselves and their families at home, which some believe is not being done by Hispanic families. One participant made a connection of civic duties to moral and religious duties, claiming that both are eroding.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES (cont.)

G3: J [00:44:38]: I want to understand. I think civic education, for example-- I'm from Mexico and I used to teach civil education, teach kids to greet others, to put the garbage where it belongs, not to write on the walls and all that. But, today, if you look at schools, we're not teaching them anything anymore. I personally went to Denver schools and they were a disaster in the 80's, kids paid no attention to teachers. They don't learn much civic education apart from what their parents might teach them at home, which is the most important part, but it does have a lot to do with how you see your community. I've lived in Denver for many years and I think it's becoming more and more deteriorated. And I think: "What should I do, go to the police? They won't do anything. Should I gather a bunch of people to see if we can clean the street? Nobody cares." So we have to educate ourselves first and then educate our kids too, otherwise we can't change our communities, not the block I live in, not a mile around it. What is it? You go to an Anglosaxon community and it's gorgeous, you can't litter there, you can't make noise there, you can't-- What is it? We live in the same country. That's my question.

G3: O [00:47:48]: I think that, as Julian was saying, civic education has to come from the home. If we don't instill that in our children, they're not even going to take it into account. We Hispanics have a lot to do in that sense, because we're not giving our kids a proper education at home, starting at home, we want them to learn everything from school.

G3: AM [00:46:51]: I think a lot of people do want to help, but for example with schools or around the neighborhood, as he was saying, he wants the street clean, but I don't know why Hispanics don't get together with each other to form a group and manage to do what they want to do, better one here and another one over there. I don't see where they get together, and when they do I see a lot of gossip and no work.

G3: EO [00:49:36]: I think moral principles are very important. As I said, to educate from home. Since time has slipped us by and the economy puts pressure on us, those principles have been forgotten. Parents have not dedicated themselves to kids because they have to work 12 or 14 hours. Many of them do this to survive, to send their kids to school. Because voting is also a right as a citizen, but if you don't teach your children they won't know why it's important to vote, because I have to analyze the problems in my community, and this party and the next, because you don't necessarily have to vote for a certain party today. You have to vote for the person you think is best. That's also been lost in schools. If you don't teach your children principles, how can you expect them to respect the teacher? How can you expect them to respect their peers? How can you expect there not to be so many kids hitting each other and posting it on the Internet? That is scandalous. You hadn't seen that in a long time. Since the government or there's this American system of working 24 hours a day, people have lost their values, people don't even have time to go pray because, even if they wanted to-- You don't have to go to church, you can just stop and ask some superior force to help you. That's been lost.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES (cont.)

One participant shared that because the government is failing to address local issues, it is the duty of individual citizens to help those in need.

Government is described as not helping with local issues. As a result, participants feel that citizens must do the work to help people.

G3: R [00:48:12]: I think you need to do things in your neighborhood, because the government is not going to do it. I do volunteer work at the church and in other groups, helping disabled children, and a person with a disability might not be able to work, they need help to get set up in an apartment and all that. If you don't help them, they will be on the streets begging because they can't work, they're disabled. I think you need to help people. Voting is important, but you also need to help people directly.

Barriers to voter registration are low, as personal stories reveal that community organizations are going to citizens where they are, like grocery stores and parks.

Voter registration stories reveal that organizations are going out into the community actively registering people at grocery stores, and parks. Participants found the process easy.

G3: Moderator [00:51:08]: Everyone here is registered to vote. I'd like a few of you to tell me the story of how you got registered. How did you get registered to vote? Does anyone want to share how they got registered?

G3: AA [00:51:29]: They caught me at Walmart. [laughs]

G3: Moderator [00:51:30] Interviewer: At Walmart? Was that long ago or recently?

G3: AA [00:51:36]: No, it was a long time ago. I think they saw I was 18 and they said "Hello" and I just signed.

G3: Moderator [00:51:43]: You signed right there, at Walmart. Okay. Anyone else?

G3: F [00:51:46]: I did the same at King Soopers.

G3: Moderator [00:51:47]: At King Soopers? Is that a supermarket?

G3: F [00:51:50]: Yes, someone who was there and I said "Okay. Fine".

G3: Moderator [00:51:55]: Do you know who that person was? You don't know who they were?

G3: F [00:51:57]: No. It was one of those people, back when they used to stand in several places. I wouldn't have remembered if she hadn't mentioned it.

G3: EO [00:52:07]: I went to the Civic Center.

G3: Moderator [00:52:09]: The Civic Center?

[G3: EO [00:52:10]: Yes, right here.

G3: Moderator [00:52:11]: How did you do it?

G3: EO [00:52:12]: At a park. They were at the park.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES (cont.)

Republican participants expressed distrust in elections, specifically as it relates to mail ballots.

In Colorado, everyone is allowed to mail-in their ballot. Republican participants distrust the mail-in ballot system and suggest that it is fraught with voter fraud.

G3: H [00:55:05]: I was there all the time before, but I just went to vote on that day. I think the problem with the mail-in ballot there's a lot of fraud because-

G3: Moderator [00:55:20]: Where did you hear that?

G3: H [00:55:23]: Look, the voter rolls are not up to date. There's people who died 10 years ago and they get sent a ballot. People that are not even citizens get sent a ballot. There's people who shouldn't be voting and-

G3: Moderator [00:55:43]: Where did you learn that? Did you see it on the news or did you read it?

G3: H [00:55:47]: No, I found out. As I said, I am interested in politics. I know the system and how they handle votes. I think it's something like- In my country, Peru, there's just one day a year, it's voting day and it's mandatory. It's on a Sunday, and you go there and there's no mail-in or anything. People just go and vote.

G3: H [00:56:57]: Someone can take 10,000 ballots, fill them out, send them in.

G3: J (00:53:51) : You get your document, you can fill it out, you send it, or traditionally on the same day of the election you just go to the place assigned to you. I like to send it beforehand.

G3: EO (00:54:05) : No. They will steal it.

G3: J (00:54:09): No. there are places you can take it.

G3: EO (00:54:11): That may be, but the post office, I don't trust the post office.

Participants are familiar with the informational Blue Book that is mailed to every voter, however, they do not utilize it for making voting decisions.

Most described the book as being “too much” to digest, and reference the size and amount of information it contained..

G3: Moderator [00:57:18]: I'd like to talk some more about this book they sent you. Olga, do you know this book? Have you seen it before? Do you read and trust this book?

G3: O [00:57:27]: I've seen it, I've read it a little, but I've never finished one because it's quite big.

G3: Moderator [00:57:32]: Really? Is it too much?

G3: O [00:57:33]: Yes, it's a lot of information.

G3: Moderator [00:57:36]: AA?

G3: AA [00:57:37]: I've never opened it. But it's a lot of text, the words are very small.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 3

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES (cont.)

When asked about their personal reasons for voting in the recent elections, participants shared that they were voting for their moral values combined with issue positions, particularly in presidential elections.

Participants shared that their voting in past presidential elections was based on moral values, as well as the candidate's position on issues such as immigration.

G3: Moderator [00:58:38]: EP, which elections did you vote in? Why did you vote in that election? What was the reason?

G3: EP [00:58:46]: My moral values. I voted for the person I thought was best--

G3: Moderator [00:58:51]: Which election was it? The presidential?

G3: EP [00:58:55]: No, I think it was the Trump and Obama election.

G3: Moderator [00:58:58]: That was one time you voted like that. Why did you vote? Why?

G3: EP [00:59:04]: Because of the economy, and I voted for the person I thought was right, the one that had my same values.

G3: Moderator [00:59:19]: The last elections you voted in - what made you vote in those elections? Why did you vote in those elections in particular?

G3: F [00:59:32]: It was very similar to what she said, because of the moral issue, of how each candidate thought, but also because of the economy. I think I also focused on all the people who are coming from abroad -

G3: Moderator [00:59:50]: Foreigners. Anyone else?

G3: H [00:59:55]: One question I'd like to ask is- if someone votes for the personality or values of a candidate, that's the difference. Many people vote for that personality and say: "Well, I don't like him to be tweeting messages, or I'm not going to vote for him, I'll vote for the other guy." That's what happened in this election, and where are we now? The economy was soaring and now it's falling.

G3: Moderator [01:00:32]: J. What do you think?

G3: J [01:00:32]: No, I agree with him, I'm going to say I agree with him because something strange happened to me. I didn't vote for Trump when he-- because he was saying bad things about Hispanics, "Hispanics this and that, and immigration..." So I didn't vote for him, but he won. Four years later I said: "I'm going to vote for him."

Because he convinced me of a lot of things, nationalism, which was the best thing for people living here, and he didn't win. I didn't want Biden to win, I honestly didn't, but now I don't know, it's going to come again, I think I don't know because the economy is not too good, and if we look at values, they're not too good either.

G3: Moderator [01:01:27]: Whose values, Biden's or Trump's?

G3: J [01:01:28]: No, the values reflected in what is happening. No, I don't know what values they have, that's a private matter. I don't know if they sell themselves or not, but in a way Trump convinced me of a lot of things, because the Democrats haven't approved a migration reform either, and it's needed, since many people have lived here for 20 or 30 years, working and paying taxes.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 3

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES (cont.)

G3: R [01:02:13]: You need to think about what the Democrats are saying, they're helping Dreamers, while Trump wants to kill all Mexicans, that's the big difference. Because now Democrats want to pass laws for the children who were born here, since they're more American than Mexican or any other nationality ... but if you ask Democrats if they want to make them citizens, if you talk to a Republican and they want to send them back, that's the difference.

G3: O [01:02:51]: They don't want to make them citizens.

One Republican participant blames the downturn of the economy specifically on Biden.

This participant made it a point to blame Biden for the failing economy, and believed that the economy was much better under Republican leadership.

[00:59:55] Hugo: One question I'd like to ask is, if someone votes for the personality or values of a candidate, that's the difference. Many people vote for that personality and say: "Well, I don't like him to be tweeting messages, or I'm not going to vote for him, I'll vote for the other guy." That's what happened in this election, and where are we now? The economy was soaring and now it's falling.

Participants are reluctant to participate in elections they don't know much about.

Several shared that they do not participate in elections in which they are unfamiliar with the candidates or issues. They shared that if they learn about an election, they would rather not vote than vote uninformed. Several shared that they vote in presidential elections, but not local elections because they are unfamiliar with issues and candidates.

G3: O [01:03:45]: I sometimes haven't focused on the matter, I don't realize it and suddenly it's election day and I hadn't even had time to read up. So I think it's best not to do it, because why do something you don't know anything about, go there and have no idea what you're doing?

G3: Moderator [01:04:01]: AA. What elections have you participated in? Why?

G3: AA[01:04:08] Alejandra: I've always participated in presidential elections since I've had the opportunity, but as for those yearly local elections I think I just don't know what is happening.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES (cont.)

Participants believe that Hispanics don't vote because they don't think anything will change. They also shared that the Electoral College discourages them from voting.

There are many reasons that participants believe Hispanics don't vote. They feel that many don't see change brought on by voting and that the Electoral College makes them feel that their vote does not matter.

G3: Moderator [01:05:00]: They say it changes nothing.

[overlapping conversation]

G3: O [01:05:02]: They say they'll name whomever they want, not the one people choose.

G3: Moderator [01:05:05]: Any comments, O?

G3: O [01:05:06]: They say they'll name whomever they want, not the person one might want or vote for. They say they just name whomever they want. So-- In fact, political opinions are very divergent, so it's sometimes best not to--

G3: J [01:05:20]: I differ from that. I mean, that's just why we vote, right? So one can say, "Well, I want so and so to be my representative here in Colorado," because votes, You can't go against the vote, even if we say some elections get stolen, be it the electoral or popular vote, it is possible. Many of us Hispanics don't vote. I didn't use to vote because I wasn't a citizen, but as soon as I became one I said: "I'm going to start voting. I won't affiliate myself with the Democrats or the Republicans." Because the more I analyze Republican states, the more I realize that's where the cheapest houses are. Analyze that. Why are houses so expensive in the Democrat states?

G3: H [01:06:21]: You know, in Colorado there's over 300,000 Hispanics who can vote, and don't. 300,000, that's almost 50% of the voting population in Colorado, but they don't vote.

G3: Moderator [01:06:21]: Why is that? Why do Hispanics not vote here in Colorado?

G3: H [01:06:21]: It's like the lady said, there's no interest, they don't care or they think nothing will change. People don't make the effort to get educated on the issues that will affect their lives.

G3: O [01:07:01]: Exactly.

G3: H [01:07:03]: That's a problem. Especially young people. They're just living their lives. When I was twenty-something years old, I also didn't bother much with politics. You have to see what's going to affect your life, your family, your business, your work, your future, your finances, all that.

G3: AA [01:07:30]: By the way, I've also heard people say it's no use because their vote is worth nothing anyways. They say what matters is the electoral vote.

G3: EO [01:07:40]: "My vote makes no difference," I've heard that a lot, and then [unintelligible] My God.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Participants shared that they are most concerned with inflation, the economy, and rising prices. They are concerned about how they will continue to make ends meet.

Participants expressed that wages are not increasing while prices are increasing. As a result, participants feel they are having to make choices. They also shared they are worried about a recession and the effects on housing and interest rates.

G3: Moderator [01:12:11]: Let's go over what you just did. We'll start with Alejandra. Where did you place your star?

G3: AA [01:12:18]: The economy.

G3: Moderator [01:12:19]: The economy. Who else placed their star on the economy?

G3: EO [01:12:22]: I did.

G3: Moderator [01:12:23]: EO, EP. Well, tell me a little about why the economy is so important to you.

G3: EP [01:12:30]: Because I worry thinking we might undergo a depression or a war...I don't know, that worries me a lot. [laughs]

G3: Moderator [01:12:40]: Yes, EO.

G3: EO [01:12:43]: I worry about the economy because that affects everything, it affects progress, it affects 3 consumers, it affects the real estate market. There's people here who have been trying to save up for three years, and they needed \$10,000 to buy a house, now they need \$30,000 and it's still not enough, because things have gone up. I worry that the place where we live makes no progress, that there might not be enough money for things like recreation?

G3: AM [01:14:00]: The economy.

G3: Moderator [01:14:02]: Also the economy?

G3: AM [01:14:03]: Yes, I worry about what might happen to lots of families.

G3: Moderator [01:14:12]: You think your income might not be enough?

G3: AM [01:14:16]: It won't be enough. I do a lot of volunteer work and I see a lot of families and seniors.

G3: Moderator [01:14:28]: Elderly people.

[01:14:29] Anita: People who live on paycheck to paycheck, in two week's time they won't have enough to pay the rent. That worries me a lot, because what will become of them? And what about the kids?

G3: R [01:16:39]: Russia and the Ukraine, because people forget that, in the 80's, the interest rate for a loan to buy a house was about 20% here. When I bought my first house it was about 15%, because Saudi Arabia had all the oil and they said: "We're not going to send you any more," and so the prices went up because of the oil. That's what's happening now. Russia has all the oil in Europe, so with the oil supply cut off all the prices there are going up, they're going up all over the world because they need to buy oil and there is none. That's because of interest, right now it's 5% or 6% to buy a house. That's higher than last year, but if you look it up you'll see in the 80's it was 15%, 20% just to buy a house.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES (Cont.)

Several participants indicated that they have concerns about the rise in crime, particularly gun violence, and deaths related to fentanyl.

Participants expressed concern about the rise of fentanyl use and the rise in crime. They believe that government programs to address drug addiction are not helping individuals. Instead, they believe the government is providing them with drug alternatives that do not help them break the addiction.

G3: F [01:15:36]: Crime, because everyday now, I think not a single day goes by without me hearing about shootings on the news. Every day. It's become a very normal shooting, but the worst part is that it's not just one, you get three different events...I hear it in Aurora.

G3: EO [01:13:18]: Because otherwise we'll keep experiencing this problem we have in Colorado, which is out of control, and it's fentanyl. If the economy is poor, there won't be enough money to invest in things for children, who are the nation's future, and that really worries me.

When participants talked about immigration, it was framed in relation to jobs and not political asylum.

Participants describe the immigration issue as directly related to an immigrant's ability to find a job in America. They did not address immigrants fleeing for political asylum.

G3: O [01:19:22]: For me, I don't think it's as important as the economy, because of what she said. If we achieve some stability, people can come from abroad and it won't be so bad. I, for instance, barely make it to the end of each month...So I can't say: "I'm going to bring someone from my family over." I'm originally from Mexico, so why should I not be able to support myself? ... I'm talking legally, of course. You have to be earning a certain amount in order to qualify to bring someone from your family over. How can I bring them over, if people here get home and they already start spending on electricity, water, and so on? If I barely make enough to survive, I can't do it. I mean, of course it's important ... but it's even more important for me right now to be able to make a living.

G3: Moderator [01:20:26]: Yes. If on the list instead of having immigration, because I think they're thinking that people who want to come here, I mean immigrants, that those people are here already, but have no citizenship.

G3: AM [01:20:45]: That's why I didn't give it a three. Because I think of people like the dreamers. They're here. They were born in another country, but they're not from there. It's like, in a way, they can't be Americans although they feel Americans because this is where they've always been, but they have no rights. I see a lot of people battling with that. Because they are from here, they don't know any other country, but at the same time-- In Mexico, how do you say it? They don't have a real status because they have to get work permits and all that stuff but they don't see it.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES (Cont.)

The Republican participant believes that public schools are teaching sex education to young children in kindergarten. He expressed his opposition to this type of teaching. While the participant did not specifically mention the word “grooming,” they were in lockstep with Republican talking points on this subject and were likely also alluding to the teaching of Critical Race Theory in public schools.

G3: H [00:19:12]: Something that worries me is the state schools are in, and the way in which they're indoctrinating kids with things they shouldn't be teaching them.

G3: Moderator [00:19:26]: Like what?

G3:H [00:19:28]: Like sex. They're trying to teach kids between kindergarten and third grade. What do kids of that age have to know about sex?

G3: Moderator [00:19:43]: Is that just here in Denver, or all over Colorado?

G3: H [00:19:46]: It's happening in Colorado and all over the country.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

Political parties are viewed along ideological lines, with Republicans thought of as better on the economy and Democrats better with Social Programs.

Participants view the political parties as distinct entities: the Republicans better at the economy and Democrats better with social programs. Parties are also framed as representing either the rich or the poor.

G3: EP [01:27:35]: I feel that the Republican party is more conservative, and the Democratic party is more open minded, you could say their way of thinking has more free will.

G3: Moderator [01:28:00]: F, what would you say? What do you think? What would you say the Democrats and Republicans each represent?

G3: F [01:28:06]: I also wrote that one is more conservative than the other.

G3: J [01:28:15]: When I think about the Democrats I think social programs, a lot of freedom of expression, more liberality, they focus more on minorities. And Republicans are more capitalist, more conservative, possibly less taxes or at least more break in taxes for the rich, but I also think more wars. It's not that the Democrats don't wage wars, but there are certain differences. But in the end they all work for multinational companies, and that's the problem.

G3: AA [01:29:17]: I think the Republicans are normally gringos with money, they grew up with privileges or made money at some point, whereas [01:29:30] Democrats normally don't have money, on the contrary.

G3: EO [01:29:38]: I wrote for the Democrats, the first thing that came to my mind is that prices go up and the economy sinks down. A lot of promises to reform things, but nothing really happens. Healthcare services go up, they're already extremely high, a person here pays \$755 if they go over Obama's limit. That's out of control, I had to return it this year. Out of control for a person who pays less than \$75,000, right? That's a lot of money. Having seven children, I think that's a lot for just one person.

G3: R [01:31:59]: That the Democrats are concerned with helping poor people and the minorities. I used to have more respect for the Republicans, who wanted to cut taxes and all that, but I can't stop thinking about the first thing Trump said when he started, he said Mexicans are rapers and criminals. I think some of them are good, but most of them are rapists.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS (Cont.)

Left-wing Democrats were described by the Republican participant as “socialists.”

The Republican participant shared that he believed that the left-wing of the Democratic Party were socialists, though he gave no real evidence of this.

G3: H [01:30:48]: The Democrats are very left-wing-

G3: Moderator [01:30:50]: Okay.

G3: H [01:30:50]: -which just means "Socialist" right now. They weren't like that when I was growing up, but nowadays we must admit that it's very much controlled by the leftists.

G3: Moderator [01:31:03]: Okay.

G3: H [01:31:05]: They prefer to have more control... They don't like to give power to the citizens. They like power in itself, strong power. I think they're going against America and what we're doing right now.

Ronald Reagan is remembered as delivering on immigration and having strength and courage. Participants remember Ronald Reagan fondly and credit him for having the guts to bring about immigration reform.

G3: J [01:37:20]: Going back to what he said, it's very true that it went down with Bush, there were no jobs under Bush, there was the war in Iraq. I also wanted to point out that nobody had the guts that Ronald Reagan had when he launched the first amnesty, and he was a Republican, and none of the Democrats had ever done that Obama did something for Hispanics, but he didn't give them the whole...He did something good. I applaud him, but he didn't do everything he should have done. Now Biden doesn't want to do it, I don't know, because he doesn't want to lose. He wants to win the next four years.

G3: EO [01:40:01]: Trump is just one person, the party is made up of many people and they're the ones who have the power to vote. What we have here, which he mentioned-- When Reagan was in office, if you gathered coupons you had to go to the university or give four working hours, otherwise they wouldn't give you housing.

Nobody here has had the guts that he had, that's why the government is so bad, because, like she said, people don't want to work, "It's better for me to just sit here, because the Democrats are going to send me a check, they're going to extend this, they're going to keep it up."

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS (Cont.)

Independents in the group feel positive and negative about both political parties.

Those who identify as independent see both positive and negative policy positions for each party.

G3: Moderator [01:42:19]: Who feels pessimistic about the Democrats? One, two, three, four. How many feel pessimistic about the Republicans? One, two, three. O is in the middle, do you feel-

G3: O [01:42:41]: I'm in the middle, yes.

G3: Moderator [01:42:41]: -half positive, half negative?

G3: O [01:42:43]: Well, it depends [laughs].

G3: Moderator [01:42:44]: Yes, it depends [overlapping conversation].

[01:42:15] O: Depends on what one understands, or my beliefs about what they are offering or saying, I can say: "Yes, this is convenient for me, or that is convenient for me." That's why I don't have a specific denomination, I'm neither a Republican or a Democrat, because I like things about the Republicans and I like things about the Democrats.

Note: Some quotes from focus groups have been edited for brevity and clarity.

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