

UNLOCKING THE HISPANIC VOTE

FOCUS GROUP REPORT

Nevada





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TOPLINE REPORT

Objectives of the Study

Emerson College Polling Center conducted a research study to better understand the attitudes and beliefs among Hispanics living in Nevada in four key topic areas related to U.S. politics and voting issues: (1) most important issues, (2) news consumption and trust in media, (3) voting and civic attitudes, 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 Nevada 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.

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Methodology

Three focus groups of participants of Hispanic ethnicity were conducted in Las Vegas, Nevada in July 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 focus group facility, Opinions LTD, and a recruiting service company, Athena Research, was utilized for supplemental recruitment for the non-registered citizens group. Both recruiters used the same participant screener. Participants were given a \$125 incentive to take part in the registered voters focus groups and \$150 to participate in the non-registered group. The study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Emerson College.

KEY FINDINGS



SECTION 1: POLICY ISSUES

Participants in the English registered group who rated the economy as a top priority perceive the economy as encompassing many issues from jobs to housing to public safety. Their definition was broad and speaks more to the overall state of their lives rather than just economic factors like inflation or rising prices.

Participants feel that the economy is going in the wrong direction. High cost is driving their attitudes about this and they expressed concern about the national debt and how that will affect families and future generations.

A handful of participants agreed with the assessment of one participant that the country is experiencing a recession, blaming stimulus checks and unemployment checks as driving a fake economy. They believe that government funds are driving spending which will eventually end once the money runs out.

Housing affordability was of concern to many of the participants who have seen the prices of homes and rent rise greatly. They worry about being able to afford rent or purchase a home.

For those in the non-registered group who chose healthcare as their most important issue, they noted the importance of having affordable access, noting that they consider it to be a right to have it and that everyone should be able to have access.

In the non-registered group housing and abortion are framed as an economic issues. Rather than discuss abortions as having access to healthcare, participants talked about the cost of raising children and the mental stress.

Participants in the Spanish language group expressed concern that legal immigrants coming into the country are not given the support they need from the government to help them achieve the American dream, which they believe everyone has the right to.

KEY FINDINGS



SECTION 2: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

There was a general distrust of news media, both traditional and on-line. Several expressed the news media as having an agenda and there was discussion about corporations owning media outlets and pushing personal agendas on them. One participant believes that corporations own the major television networks and they push a corporate brand and image.

Several participants shared that Google, social media apps and the internet in general are their primary sources of news. Apps like Twitter allow them to self-select the news they want to consume. The news finds the participants, rather than them looking for it. News is being delivered to their smartphones through notifications and through social media applications. They appear to be abreast of the latest news as a result of this.

Families are a source for verifying news stories, and they consume news that those family members share on social media apps or in person.

Spanish language news was described as being more forthright and graphic in its news coverage. This is positively received by participants. Participants also noted that differences exist among all news channels and they believe each gives a different version of the news, and suggest they are pushing a political agenda. News was described as being on "one side" or another.

Newspapers are not a primary source of news for the participants and they discussed encountering paywalls in order to access content. They shared that they do not pay for access, but instead look to other free sources to get the same news. One participant commented that the cost for access was too high.

KEY FINDINGS



SECTION 3: CIVIC ATTITUDES

Many acts of a good citizen were described as interactions with strangers rather than friends or family members, suggesting that to them a good citizen is looking out for others in the community, not just relatives or close friends.

The Spanish language group believed the concept of a Good Citizen was framed as someone who is law abiding. Following societal rules was important to this group as was civic responsibilities such as love for country and voting. Overall, this group was rooted in nationalism for the United States, rather than their home countries.

Civic responsibilities such as jury duty and voting were not raised until prompted. There were mixed feelings about both. Some believed that everyone should be required to do jury duty while others felt it was too much of a “hassle” and took them away from their paying jobs that they could not afford to miss. One participant shared that she didn’t vote because nothing changes as a result of her vote and that the Electoral College contributed to them feeling that their vote didn’t matter. Another participant defended the Electoral College as a way to keep from electing liberal leaning presidents.

In the non-registered group, they share a distrust in government and elections. They don’t think their vote matters and that the outcome of elections are predetermined. Participants also feel that they aren’t educated enough about the elections to go vote.

Several participants expressed that they thought that their vote didn’t matter specifically because of the Electoral College. They also believed that money had a big role in controlling the outcome of elections.

KEY FINDINGS



SECTION 4: POLITICS

Participants feel that the political parties do not follow through on promises to the Latino community. Specifically, they expressed disappointment with both parties on the issue of immigration, saying that neither is offering solutions and people are being left in limbo. Several participants expressed that the parties only reach out to Latinos when they need votes to win elections.

Several expressed that politics is nothing but corruption, serving self-interests and not helping average people. They believe the system is broken and functions only to help the rich. In the non-registered group, some of the participants appeared to lack basic knowledge of the U.S. political system and of general symbolism associated with each party.

Attitudes about Trump are polarized. were mixed. One participant expressed not wanting Trump to be re-elected, while another praised him as a good businessman whose leadership had the economy on the right track. Yet, another participant noted his failed history as a businessman and suggested that Trump used the presidency to get rich and sell products.

Participants expressed that under the Democratic Party leadership the economy has gotten worse. They feel that promises were made on the economy and immigration, but nothing is being done to address these issues. One participant suggested that the party makes promises to get votes and win elections, but then does not follow through, and view the Republican Party as being better on the economy.

A landscape of rolling hills under a dark blue sky with a crescent moon. The hills are illuminated from the side, creating strong shadows and highlights. The sky is a deep, uniform blue, and a small, pale crescent moon is visible in the upper center. The foreground is a flat, open plain, possibly a salt flat or a dry lake bed, with some faint textures and colors. The overall mood is serene and quiet.

FULL REPORT

FULL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

On July 25 and 26, 2022, a total of three (3) focus groups were conducted in **Las Vegas, Nevada** 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. Most Important Issues
2. News Consumption and Trust in Media
3. Voting and Civic Attitudes
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 Nevada state-wide survey (also conducted by Emerson College Polling Center) provided a foundation for this qualitative research project. Furthermore, this Nevada 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.

FULL REPORT

METHODOLOGY

Three Nevada focus groups were conducted at a professional focus group facility, Opinions LTD, located in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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 and a recruiting firm 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 was offered to participants who met the criteria for the registered voter groups and \$150 for those in the non-registered group. The incentive payment was executed upon their completion of participation in the focus group discussion. 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, July 25, 2022, 5:30 pm - Hispanic Registered Voters (conducted in English) - 8 participants
- **Group 2** - Tuesday, July 26, 2022, 6:00 pm - Hispanic Non-Registered Citizens (conducted in English) - 8 participants
- **Group 3** - Monday, July 25, 2022, 7:30 pm - Hispanic Registered Voters (conducted in Spanish) - 9 participants

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

The duration for each of the 3 focus groups was approximately 90 minutes and each were 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.

PARTICIPANTS

Focus Group Profile

Below is a demographic breakdown of the participants for each group. All participants self-identified as Hispanic, and whether they were registered or non-registered voters:

Group 1 - Monday, July 25, 2022, 5:30 pm - Hispanic Registered Voters (conducted in English)

- 4 female and 4 male
- Income range between \$30k - \$100k+
- Education: 2 high school or less, 3 some college, 1 college graduate, 2 postgraduate
- Four were from more English only speaking households, 1 was from a more English than Spanish speaking household, and 3 were from households that spoke both languages equally
- Six were born in the United States, 2 were born outside the United States

Hispanic Registered Voters with History of Voting Conducted in English

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Male	52	Mexican	Democrat	G1: J
Male	52	Mexican	Democrat	G1: T
Female	53	Puerto Rican	Democrat	G1: D
Female	51	Mexican	None	G1: F
Male	59	Mexican	Independent	G1: RC
Male	32	Mexican	Democrat	G1: V
Female	40	Mexican	Independent	G1: RS
Female	40	Other Central American	Unsure	G1: A

PARTICIPANTS

Focus Group Profile

Below is a demographic breakdown of the participants for each group. All participants self-identified as Hispanic, and whether they were registered or non-registered voters:

Group 2 - Tuesday, July 26, 2022, 6:00 pm - Hispanic Non-Registered Citizens
(conducted in English)

- 5 female and 3 male
- Income range between less than \$10k - \$50k +
- Education: 4 high school diploma or less, 2 some college, 1 college graduate, 1 postgraduate
- One participant was from a more Spanish than English speaking household, 3 were from more English than Spanish speaking households, 3 were from a household that spoke both languages equally, and 1 was from an English only speaking household
- Six were born in the United States, 1 was born outside the United States, and 1 did not indicate

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Female	43	Mexican	Democrat	G2: MJ
Female	37	Guatemalan	Democrat	G2: MB
Female	22	Mexican	Unsure	G2: I
Female	56-60	Mexican	Republican	G2: T
Male	42	Mexican	Democrat	G2: GA
Female	41	Other Hispanic	Democrat	G2: GC
Male	28	Mexican	Other	G2: K
Male	24	Mexican	Independent	G2: MH

PARTICIPANTS

Focus Group Profile

Below is a demographic breakdown of the participants for each group. All participants self-identified as Hispanic, and whether they were registered or non-registered voters:

Group 3 - Monday, July 25, 2022, 7:30 pm - Hispanic Registered Voters

(conducted in Spanish)

- 4 female and 5 male
- Income range between \$10k - \$100k
- Education: 3 high school diploma or less, 3 some college, 3 college graduate
- One was from an only Spanish speaking household, 3 were from a more Spanish than English speaking household, 4 was from a household that spoke both languages equally, and 1 was from more English than Spanish speaking household
- Five participants were born outside the United States and 4 were born in the United States

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Male	37	Mexican	None	G3: R
Male	49	Mexican	Independent	G3: C
Male	27	Mexican	Democrat	G3: EO
Male	26	Mexican	Democrat	G3: J
Female	44	Mexican	Republican	G3: O
Female	22	Cuban	Democrat	G3: ED
Female	48	Mexican	Democrat	G3: M
Female	30	Mexicon	Democrat	G3: EZ
Male	35	Mexican	Independent	G3: G

KEY FINDINGS

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Participants in the English registered group who rated the economy as a top priority perceive the economy as encompassing many issues from jobs to housing to public safety. Their definition was broad and speaks more to the overall state of their lives rather than just economic factors like inflation or rising prices.

Participants who rated the economy a high priority, though not their top priority, defined the economy using more economic terminology like cost of goods, jobs, housing and supply and demand. They noted an interconnectedness between different aspects of the economy like jobs, wages, and supplies of goods.

Participants feel that the economy is going in the wrong direction. High cost is driving their attitudes about this and they expressed concern about the national debt and how that will affect families and future generations.

A handful of participants agreed with the assessment of one participant that the country is experiencing a recession, blaming stimulus checks and unemployment checks as driving a fake economy. They believe that government funds are driving spending which will eventually end once the money runs out.

Housing affordability was of concern to many of the participants who have seen the prices of homes and rent rise greatly.

For those in the non-registered group who chose healthcare as their most important issue, they noted the importance of having affordable access, noting that they consider it to be a right to have it and that everyone should be able to have access.

In the non-registered group housing and abortion are framed as an economic issues. Rather than discuss abortions as having access to healthcare, participants talked about the cost of raising children and the mental stress.

Participants in the Spanish language group expressed concern that legal immigrants coming into the country are not given the support they need from the government to help them achieve the American dream, which they believe everyone has the right to.

KEY FINDINGS

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

There was a general distrust of news media, both traditional and on-line. Several expressed the news media as having an agenda and there was discussion about corporations owning media outlets and pushing personal agendas on them. One participant believes that corporations own the major television networks and they push a corporate brand and image.

Several participants shared that Google, social media apps and the internet in general are their primary sources of news. Apps like Twitter allow them to self-select the news they want to consume.

The news finds the participants, rather than them looking for it. News is being delivered to their smartphones through notifications and through social media applications. They appear to be abreast of the latest news as a result of this.

Family are a source for verifying news stories, and they consume news that those family members share on social media apps or in person.

Spanish language news was described as being more forthright and graphic in its news coverage. This is positively received by participants. Participants also noted that differences exist among all news channels and they believe each gives a different version of the news, and suggest they are pushing a political agenda. News was described as being on "one side" or another.

Newspapers are not a primary source of news for the participants and they discussed encountering paywalls in order to access content. They shared that they do not pay for access, but instead look to other free sources to get the same news. One participant commented that the cost for access was too high.

KEY FINDINGS

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Many acts of a good citizen were described as interactions with strangers rather than friends or family members, suggesting that to them a good citizen is looking out for others in the community, not just relatives or close friends.

The Spanish language group believed the concept of a Good Citizen was framed as someone who is law abiding. Following societal rules was important to this group as was civic responsibilities such as love for country and voting. Overall, this group was rooted in nationalism for the United States, rather than their home countries.

Civic responsibilities such as jury duty and voting were not raised until prompted. There were mixed feelings about both. Some believed that everyone should be required to do jury duty while others felt it was too much of a “hassle” and took them away from their paying jobs that they could not afford to miss. One participant shared that she didn’t vote because nothing changes as a result of her vote and that the Electoral College contributed to them feeling that their vote didn’t matter. Another participant defended the Electoral College as a way to keep from electing liberal leaning presidents.

In the non-registered group, they share a distrust in government and elections. They don’t think their vote matters and that the outcome of elections are predetermined. Participants also feel that they aren’t educated enough about the elections to go vote.

Several participants expressed that they thought that their vote didn’t matter specifically because of the Electoral College. They also believed that money had a big role in controlling the outcome of elections.

KEY FINDINGS

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

While Democrats are still viewed as the party that helps the working people, participants expressed disappointment with the democratic party, citing the coronavirus and the economy and rising prices as failed leadership. They don't feel the party cares about them.

Participants feel that the political parties do not follow through on promises to the Latino community. Specifically, they expressed disappointment with both parties on the issue of immigration, saying that neither is offering solutions and people are being left in limbo. Several participants expressed that the parties only reach out to Latinos when they need votes to win elections.

Several expressed that politics is nothing but corruption, serving self-interests and not helping average people. They believe the system is broken and functions only to help the rich.

In the non-registered group, some of the participants appeared to lack basic knowledge of the U.S. political system and of general symbolism associated with each party.

Attitudes about Trump were mixed. One participant expressed not wanting Trump to be re-elected, while another praised him as a good businessman whose leadership had the economy on the right track. Yet, another participant noted his failed history as a businessman and suggested that Trump used the presidency to get rich and sell products.

Participants expressed that under the Democratic Party leadership the economy has gotten worse. They feel that promises were made on the economy and immigration, but nothing is being done to address these issues. One participant suggested that the party makes promises to get votes and win elections, but then does not follow through, and view the Republican Party as being better on the economy.

***FOCUS GROUP
HIGHLIGHTS***

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

Key Findings for Group 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Participants who rated the economy as a top priority perceive the economy as encompassing many issues from jobs to housing to public safety. Their definition was broad and speaks more to the overall state of their lives rather than just economic factors like inflation or rising prices.

Participants who rated the economy a high priority, though not their top priority, defined the economy using more economic terminology like cost of goods, jobs, housing and supply and demand. They noted an interconnectedness between different aspects of the economy like jobs, wages, and supplies of goods.

When asked if the economy was going good or bad, participants described it as bad because of rising prices of gasoline. Rising housing costs and stagnant wages were also raised as indicators that the economy is failing working families.

There was no consensus on the issue of climate change, in fact there were dramatic differences on its rating. One participant rated it as most important to them because of the severe hot weather and its effect on local water sources like Lake Mead. Another participant denied the human effects on climate change and suggested that water shortages were due to politicians at the state level selling water to other states. While this participant rated climate change as being zero important, they nonetheless described the situation as “desperate.”

A handful of participants agreed with the assessment of one participant that the country is experiencing a recession, blaming stimulus checks and unemployment checks as driving a fake economy. They believe that government funds are driving spending which will eventually end once the money runs out. Housing affordability was of concern to many of the participants who have seen the prices of homes and rent rise greatly. They describe the CHAPs housing program as not working effectively and contributing to the rising costs of housing. They appear to support CHAP as a social program, but do not believe that it's working as designed.

One participant expressed frustration when discussing public safety and crime. They felt that African-Americans are responsible for a majority of the crime but are given a “pass,” suggesting that crime is not being properly punished. This is a sentiment that another participant also shared. They suggested that this lax on crime is driven by efforts to defund the police and has left communities in “chaos.”

One participant rated immigration as important because they had family members who were experiencing difficulties getting work or citizenship status. Discussion of this topic included self-deprecating terms like “beaners” and “illegals.” Another discussed immigration and border security using the analogy of a locked home, which is a trope used by conservatives to discuss border security.

One participant expressed a world view based on traditional family roles and suggested that moving away from this has led to the “destruction of the social fabric” in America. No one in the group challenged his assessment.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES (CONT.)

There was wide range of ratings on the importance of the issue of abortion. For those who gave it a high rating, they raised the issue of rape as a reason abortion should remain legal. One participant noted that although her Catholic religion was against abortion, she personally believed it should be a woman's choice. She also reference that with the overturning of Roe vs Wade, women of means would still have access to abortion while women in poverty would not. One participants' views the overturning of Roe vs. Wade as just the first step in banning all birth control.

The cost of housing came up several times throughout the focus group within and outside of the context of the discussion about the most important issues. Housing and rental costs were brought up during the discussion of the economy, partisanship, and civic engagement. This issue seems to affect many parts of their lives.

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

There was a general distrust of news media, both traditional and on-line. Several expressed the news media as having an agenda and there was discussion about corporations owning media outlets and pushing personal agendas on them. One participant believes that corporations own the major television networks and they push a corporate brand and image.

When asked if they trusted Spanish language news more than English language news, Spanish television was preferred by one participant because Spanish is their native language and they understand it better than English.

Newspapers are not a primary source of news for the participants and they discussed encountering paywalls in order to access content. They shared that they do not pay for access, but instead look to other free sources to get the same news. One participant commented that the cost for access was too high.

Participants who use social media shared that they primarily use Facebook and Twitter and sometimes Instagram. One participant who expressed distrust for social media only used Twitter and primarily used Breitbart as their source for news which they described as "objective" despite being considered at one time as right wing.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Many acts of a good citizen were described as interactions with strangers rather than friends or family members, suggesting that to them a good citizen is looking out for others in the community, not just relatives or close friends.

Civic responsibilities such as jury duty and voting were not raised until prompted. There were mixed feelings about both. Some believed that everyone should be required to do jury duty while others felt it was too much of a “hassle” and took them away from their paying jobs that they could not afford to miss.

One participant shared that she didn't vote because nothing changes as a result of her vote and that the Electoral College contributed to them feeling that their vote didn't matter. Another participant defended the Electoral College as a way to keep from electing liberal leaning presidents.

Participants shared that their parents were a major influence in their participating in voting generally and in specific elections.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

One participant shared that they are leaving the Democratic Party because of the Party's position on LGBTQ+ issues and what they perceived as an anti law enforcement stance. Others in the group concurred.

One participant shared that she did not vote in the last election because neither political party is offering a candidate worth voting for and that their vote didn't make a difference.

While Democrats are still viewed as the party that helps the working people, participants expressed disappointment with the democratic party, citing the coronavirus and the economy and rising prices as failed leadership. They don't feel the party cares about them.

Several expressed that politics is nothing but corruption, serving self-interests and not helping average people. They believe the system is broken and functions only to help the rich.

Participants expressed disappointment with both parties on the issue of immigration, saying that neither is offering solutions and people are being left in limbo.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Participants who rated the economy as a top priority perceive the economy as encompassing many issues from jobs to housing to public safety. Their definition was broad and speaks more to the overall state of their lives rather than just economic factors like inflation or rising prices.

Moderator (00:10:11):

Okay, okay. And, and when I... When we say the word economy, what does that mean to you?

G1: RS (00:10:16):

Uh, it means, uh, just in a whole, uh, jobs, money, building, um, I, I feel like things that go to employment crimes, uh, and, uh, public safety...

Moderator (00:10:33):

Okay, okay. What about you G1: T. Why is the [economy] important to you?

G1: T (00:10:39):

Um, a lot of the same, um, the fact that you have landlords, uh, who can just insanely raise rents to what people can't afford. And nobody is doing anything about it. You have a housing market that was over inflated, and that's my [inaudible 00:10:55] background. I was in the mortgage business for almost 30 years. Um, with these insane prices, and now the interest rates go up, they think the market is gonna crash, but what's gonna happen is, you have a little property, [inaudible 00:11:06] gonna have a higher interest rate that's [inaudible 00:11:08] high. Payments are actually gonna be the same. But those people, who couldn't buy a house before can't afford it.

Moderator (00:11:28):

Okay. So, when, when we say... You say economy, what does that mean to you, the, the-

G1: T (00:11:31):

Oh, housing is the part of the economy because, it was lot to do with the risk and inflation, and if with have another market crash, everything is going to crash again.

Participants who rated the economy a high priority, though not their top priority, defined the economy using more economic terminology like cost of goods, jobs, housing and supply and demand. They noted an interconnectedness between different aspects of the economy like jobs, wages, and supplies of goods.

Moderator (00:11:54):

Okay. So you see the economy is, is inflation? Or what do you see?

G1: F (00:12:02):

The economy, everything, the prices that's on everything that are going up high, and wages are not. Wages are not going up, but everything else is.

G1: RC (00:12:10):

You know, for me, the, the economy obviously was actually but very important too.... but, obviously, the economy, right? The movement of goods and services, and supply and demand, right? I mean, we seen the constraint of supply right now, which has actually have made the prices of everything that we have, 'cause it's inflation.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

Moderator (00:16:44):

Mm-hmm. You know, when, when people talk about the economy, um, is it, is it just inflation or is the economy something more than that, or what is the economy? Anybody can answer that.

G1: RS (00:16:53):

It's more than that.

Moderator (00:16:54):

G1: D, G1: F, what do you think? What is the economy? Is it, is it more than inflation, or is it just inflation? What do you think it is?

G1: D (00:17:00):

Well, no, I mean, I don't believe we have affordable housing for everybody. You know, you make whatever you make, let's say \$10, \$15 an hour, how are you supposed to afford a \$1500 apartment? And they keep [inaudible 00:17:13], keep insurance and everything like that. So... I mean, this town is full of money, but it's not trickling down to the, the people.

Moderator (00:17:20):

G1: F, you were gonna say?

G1: F (00:17:24):

No, it's, it's the same thing that [inaudible 00:17:24] said earlier, just the jobs, they're not there, they're paying enough and everything else is going up.

When asked if the economy was going good or bad, participants described it as bad because of rising prices of gasoline. Rising housing costs and stagnant wages were also raised as indicators that the economy is failing working families.

Moderator (00:18:10):

Would you say the economy is going good? Or is it going bad?

G1: A (00:18:14):

I think it's going bad, everything going that bad.

Moderator (00:18:17):

G1: D, what about you? You think the economy-

G1: D (00:18:18):

Yeah, I think it's bad. Like, I have to keep a quarter tank of gas in my car just to wait in line for gas at Costco, you know what I mean? Stuff like that. You, you can't drive around and show people Vegas, you know, and... just be frivolous with your gas because it's so expensive.

Moderator (00:18:34):

Mm-hmm, G1: J, you give it a nine, can you talk a little about-

G1: J (00:18:37):

Well, we produce, we produce nothing in this country right now. We've... Everything we have we buy from somebody else.

Moderator (00:16:54):

G1: D, G1: F, what do you think? What is the economy? Is it, is it more than inflation, or is it just inflation? What do you think it is?

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G1: D (00:17:00):

Well, no, I mean, I don't believe we have affordable housing for everybody. You know, you make whatever you make, let's say \$10, \$15 an hour, how are you supposed to afford a \$1500 apartment? And they keep [inaudible 00:17:13], keep insurance and everything like that. So... I mean, this town is full of money, but it's not trickling down to the, the people.

Moderator (00:17:20):

G1: F, you were gonna say?

G1: F (00:17:24):

No, it's, it's the same thing that they] said earlier, just the jobs, they're not there, they're paying enough and everything else is going up.

There was no consensus on the issue of climate change, in fact there were dramatic differences on its rating. One participant rated it as most important to them because of the severe hot weather and its effect on local water sources like Lake Mead. Another participant denied the human effects on climate change and suggested that water shortages were due to politicians at the state level selling water to other states. While this participant rated climate change as being zero important, they nonetheless described the situation as “desperate.”

Moderator (00:14:51):

G1: V, talk to me about climate change and why is that so important to you.

G1: V (00:15:00):

Um, I just feel that it's pretty important because, I mean, you see the numbers, they go up and down, but, um, I don't remember the na- [inaudible 00:15:09] consistent. So... And it's hard, um, just to... Like, if it rains, it rains for a little bit, there's only... You know, it's not going to fill up the lake. Um, you know, stuff like that.

G1: J (00:15:46):

Well, because, I mean, you know, facts show us that, our planet was hotter 5000 years ago than it is now. This is the cycle for us to possibly even think that there's some way we can control the climate by throwing money at it, is... So is part of why... Well, Lake Mead so low, is the corruption from the top, why are we still selling water to Arizona and California out of Lake Mead, and we are in this desperate situation.

A handful of participants agreed with the assessment of one participant that the country is experiencing a recession, blaming stimulus checks and unemployment checks as driving a fake economy. They believe that government funds are driving spending which will eventually end once the money runs out.

G1: J (00:19:13):

The fed changed the math, so it's this fantasy that we're producing something, and we're not. And that's keeping us out of the recession. If we were using the old math, we'd be deep in a recession right now. But they've changed the math, and now we're... You know, to keep so, uh, people think-

G1: RS (00:19:31):

Yeah.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G1: J (00:19:31):

... yeah, the s- and the money that's in the system right now, it's all fake money.

G1: RS (00:19:35):

Mm-hmm.

G1: J (00:19:35):

This was given to people, this money was given, peo- I know people that made \$35,000 on unemployment last year.

G1: F (00:19:42):

Hello.

G1: RS (00:19:43):

Yeah.

G1: F (00:19:43):

Oh yeah.

G1: RS (00:19:44):

Yeah

G1: J (00:19:44):

And they are, and they are running around spending it.

G1: RS (00:19:45):

Yeah.

G1: J (00:19:46):

That's what this economy is... That's what-

G1: F (00:19:48):

Mm-hmm.

G1: J (00:19:48):

... what's driving this fake economy that people think there's money, and that's why the price-

G1: RS (00:19:52):

Mm-hmm.

G1: J (00:19:52):

... of property is going through the roof because people have all this money, and their buying new cars, they are-

G1: F (00:19:58):

Mm-hmm.

G1: J (00:19:59):

Housing affordability was a concern to many of the participants who have seen the prices of homes and rent rise greatly. They describe the CHAPs housing program as not working effectively and contributing to the rising costs of housing. They appear to support CHAP as a social program, but do not believe that it's working as designed.

G1: T (00:20:47):

CHAPs is, um, like, electric bills, utility bills, housing pretty much.

G1: RS (00:20:52):

It's a housing program.

G1: F (00:20:52):

Free money, free money.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G1: T (00:20:53):

But the thing is, is that most people don't do it because they don't know how to, or they don't know where to go for it. Or they don't know where to go for it. And they suffer, and they lose their place when they had, uh... that money has run out, it's COVID money. And I know we all talk about the government printing money, and they all talk about government doing it, but if it's going to people who... Because of Coronavirus or whatever, got booted out of work, and they couldn't go to work, that's what we should use on. We shouldn't use it on another war, we should deal with that. So there are lot of people who couldn't do that. So I helped the City of Las Vegas develop groups of people that would go to community centers, and-

Moderator (00:21:24):

Help people [inaudible 00:21:26].

G1: T (00:21:25):

... fill these... Fill the paper work out.

G1: RS (00:21:26):

And you know what CHAPs... Oh, I'm sorry to interrupt. But, like, I know somebody who just been, been using that program, and, um, I mean, it... They supplied [inaudible 00:21:35] two bedroom apartment on Dona Street and Kerry. Which is not best neighborhood, but I mean, and they're total cost to moving \$4,000. I mean, people live on the edge of Summerlin, just even pay that for a one month. Um, and so I feel like they are taking advantage. The CHAPs themselves is taking advantage of their own program. And who pays \$4,000 to live in North Las Vegas in the ghetto.

One participant expressed frustration when discussing public safety and crime. They felt that African-Americans are responsible for a majority of the crime but are given a "pass," suggesting that crime is not being properly punished. This is a sentiment that another participant also shared. They suggested that this lax on crime is driven by efforts to defund the police and has left communities in "chaos."

Moderator (00:23:10):

So you kind of talk about crime, which, G1: J, you listed as the most important problem, you wanna tell me what, what makes you feel that way?

G1: J (00:23:15):

Oh, we basically, we basically given free pass to one group of people. And, uh, it's, you know, it's, it's... They are, they are... The peo- the group of people, and, um, you know, I know it's gonna sound racist, but the group of people were the ones that are committing all the crime in this country before we start giving them a pass.

Moderator (00:23:34):

Who's that?

G1: J (00:23:35):

Black people.

G1: F (00:23:37):

I concur.

G1: J (00:23:39):

And, and we're giving 'em a free pass, and they can do basically anything they want. And these are the people that are driving the defund the police push, you know, and without police officers. We are in chaos, plain and simple.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

One participant rated immigration as important because they had family members who were experiencing difficulties getting work or citizenship status. Discussion of this topic included self-deprecating terms like “beaners” and “illegals.” Another discussed immigration and border security using the analogy of a locked home, which is a trope used by conservatives to discuss border security.

Moderator (00:25:10):

Yeah, so talk to me a little bit. What, why is that important to you?

G1: F (00:25:13):

Because half my family are beaners and they don't have papers. That's why.

Moderator (00:25:16):

No tienen papeles.[They don't have papers]

G1: F (00:25:16):

No tienen. [They don't have them.]

Moderator (00:25:16):

Okay.

G1: J (00:25:15):

I think we all, I think we all have... (laughing) Don't we all have some illegals in our family? (laughing)

G1: F (00:25:29):

Yeah, everybody is, like, yeah. I have way too many though.

G1: F (00:25:32):

Way too many.

G1: J (00:25:32):

I have nieces, I have nieces that have, I have so many nieces that have kids by illegals, it's just... five, six kids. And they're all illegals.

Moderator (00:25:41):

Uh-huh. So, G1: F, what, what's the, what's the issue for you? I mean, is there-

G1: F (00:25:45):

One of them had a, one of them, for example, had a 10 year punishment, and we didn't have any proof that he was in Mexico for 10 years, so they won't give him papers. The other one is, mm, uh, there's so many... that the 10-year punishment, I had two with 10-year punishments. The other ones, because they came across illegally, now they're not, um, they're not approving the, the, the visas to come into work because they had at one time come into the United States illegal. The other one got a DUI. They won't fix the scrapers anymore. They took them away.

G1: RC (00:26:26):

So I mean, think about, you have a home, right? You lock your home at night, right? Would you allow anybody just to come into your home, right? Just basically walking inside your house and do whatever. Would you allow that to happen? No, the United States is our home.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

One participant expressed a world view based on traditional family roles and suggested that moving away from this has led to the “destruction of the social fabric” in America. No one in the group challenged his assessment.

G1: RC (00:26:56):

But now we know that there is a lot of, there's a lot more divorce, Okay? And there's single parents, okay, raising children, raising the new generation, which is the one that we're seeing right now, okay? Along with the destruction of the social fabric, or the, basically, the social foundation of our society, which is a family of two parents. Okay? The mom is staying at home, cooking, doing whatever, taking care of the kids, and the father working out there and with one salary, making it, so they can have a home and everything. We went away completely from that, okay? Our politicians going all the way up to what I consider the first offender, which was Richard Nixon, which gave favor status to China, okay? And then comes Bill Clinton, okay, which brings China into the world recognition and becomes a trade partner with them. And then after that, all of our manufacturing went away, okay?

There was wide range of ratings on the importance of the issue of abortion. For those who gave it a high rating, they raised the issue of rape as a reason abortion should remain legal. One participant noted that although her Catholic religion was against abortion, she personally believed it should be a woman's choice. She also reference that with the overturning of Roe vs Wade, women of means would still have access to abortion while women in poverty would not. One participants' views the overturning of Roe vs. Wade as just the first step in banning all birth control.

G1: A (00:29:25):

I feel that it's wrong for the government to tell a woman what to do with her body. We're the ones that have to go through it, carry the child, and if it was a rape, for example, I don't think that the woman should be, she already went through enough, and I don't feel that she should be forced to go through even more of, have, giving birth to a child that she doesn't want.

G1: RS (00:29:45):

And giving it away, emotional distress for the rest of your life.

G1: A (00:29:49):

And I feel that this is just the beginning. I think that it's going to lead into the taking the birth control, and they're going to try to control and get rid of that [inaudible 00:29:57].

G1: RS (00:29:57):

Yeah.

G1: A (00:29:58):

And it won't be provided anymore-

G1: A (00:30:00):

... which is gonna make women go to a different extreme to handle the situation 'cause her government turned their back on her.

G1: RS (00:30:07):

A government that was, that were placed because of our choice, voting for them, and they're taking away our choices. I work for a healthcare industry. Then they're trying to make Plan B illegal, which is birth control.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G1: RS (00:30:17):

What about incest or rape, you know? Like you said, or I'm religious. I don't have to live for the rest of my life with the, you know, that on my mind if that were to happen to me. Or the baby, what if I was the product of that, my mom didn't want me all my life, depression, you know?

G1: D (00:30:39):

Just the fact, what she said, you sh- a woman should have a choice to do with her body as she wishes. And I feel that this was a law that was made 50 years ago, you know? I'm Catholic, church doesn't believe in abortion, but I believe that everybody has the right to choose. I don't think, like, that little girl, supposedly 10 years old, got raped and then they couldn't afford to take her to get an abortion because they had to go to a different county.

People don't have transportation, that type of thing. But I just think it's a medical procedure.

That's kind of, like, taking away the right to have the defibrillator or a pacemaker or something like that, you know? It's the right to choose if I have one or not. I mean, I don't think that, that that's right.

The cost of housing came up several times throughout the focus group within and outside of the context of the discussion about the most important issues. Housing and rental costs were brought up during the discussion of the economy, partisanship, and civic engagement. This issue seems to affect many parts of their lives.

G1: T (00:10:39):

Um, a lot of the same, um, the fact that you have landlords, uh, who can just insanely raise rents to what people can't afford. And nobody is doing anything about it. You have a housing market that was over inflated, and that's my [inaudible 00:10:55] background. I was in mortgage business for-

G1: RC (01:15:25):

Special interests as well, we have many, right? I mean, we have, I mean the housing, for example, the, the building blocks, I mean the, the big, special groups and how many special groups do we have out there too many to count. Right? I mean, even going from the hedge fund-

G1: A (00:50:06):

Be a good human, a good citizen. For example, if I own a bunch of property, houses, don't take advantage of the situation and rack up the rent \$600. You know, take people's situation into consideration. Be respectful.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

There was a general distrust of news media, both traditional and on-line. Several expressed the news media as having an agenda and there was discussion about corporations owning media outlets and pushing personal agendas on them. One participant believes that corporations own the major television networks and they push a corporate brand and image.

Moderator (00:34:13):

So what about others? What, uh, G1: J, what about you? What, where do you go to learn about news and information? Uh-

G1: J (00:34:20):

There's a lot of places. Not, not Google

Moderator (00:34:23):

Not Google. Okay.

G1: A (00:34:23):

Mm.

G1: J (00:34:23):

Yeah. Google is, Google is biased.

Moderator (00:34:27):

Google itself is biased.

G1: J (00:34:28):

Yes.

Moderator (00:34:29):

And what, what makes you say that? Like-

G1: J (00:34:31):

Oh, it's absolutely biased. I mean, the woman that, the woman that is one of the people on the board of the Black Lives Matter that set off the bomb in the, in, in the congressional building back in 19, I think it was '92 or something like that... who was in prison. And, and, uh, she got pardoned out of prison. You can look it up and say, "Is she a terrorist?" And Google tells you what is the definition of terrorist. You know?

Moderator (00:35:04):

Mm-hmm. So, okay. So, [inaudible 00:35:05] yeah.

G1: J (00:35:04):

Yet, yet, yet type in "January 6," and they're calling the people that were-... protesting in the capital terrorists. So [inaudible 00:35:12].

Moderator (00:35:13):

So, where do you, where do you go to get your information, though? Where do you go?

G1: J (00:35:16):

I go, d- I use a, I use a, an app called DuckDuckGo... that, that gives me the actual... uh, whatever was originally-

G1: D (00:35:25):

The, the story.

G1: J (00:35:25):

... put into the news at the time without the bias... without the-

G1: RS (00:35:29):

No opinion

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 1

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

G1: J (00:35:29):

... the marketing.

Moderator (00:35:30):

So what about just the news though? Like, how do you consume the news, like, political news?

Where do you go?

G1: J (00:35:35):

I, I consume it, usually, uh, I'll, I'll go on different websites that are, that are, are more information-based rather than, uh, corporate brand, companies, you know? Like, I don't go with ABC or CBS.

Moderator (00:36:28):

Yeah. (laughs) What about newspapers? Are there any newspapers that you read or that... No?

G1: J (00:36:35):

No. Nah. No, they're, they're all pretty much [inaudible 00:36:35].

Moderator (00:36:35):

Mm-hmm.

G1: J (00:36:35):

When asked if they trusted the Spanish language news more than English language news, Spanish television was preferred by one participant because Spanish is their native language and they understand it better than English.

Moderator (00:38:44):

Okay. Okay. And do you trust the, what makes you choose Spanish over English?

G1: D (00:38:48):

'Cause I like it better.

Moderator (00:38:49):

Because?

G1: D (00:38:50):

I speak it better, understand it better.

Moderator (00:38:52):

Okay. So it's, you feel more comfortable, at home-

G1: D (00:38:54):

Yeah

Newspapers are not a primary source of news for the participants and they discussed encountering paywalls in order to access content. They shared that they do not pay for access, but instead look to other free sources to get the same news. One participant commented that the cost for access was too high.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 1

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

Moderator (00:45:27):

Mm-hmm. Okay. Okay. Um, what about the newspaper? We haven't really talked much about newspaper. Does anybody subscribe to the newspaper? No?

G1: F (00:45:40):

No.

Moderator (00:45:41):

Did you ever subscribe to it one time and then stopped?

G1: T (00:45:43):

[inaudible 00:45:43] I did.

Moderator (00:45:44):

You did? Uh-huh.

G1: T (00:45:44):

I'd get it in my office because I would always, always read it. [inaudible 00:45:49] they had the computer. I was gonna read the business section or-

Moderator (00:45:52):

Mm-hmm.

G1: T (00:45:52):

... you know, look at properties for sale or some angry wife selling her husband Porsche for, like, 5,000.

Moderator (00:45:58):

Mm-hmm.

For me, and like that's what I read it for. And they've been... Even now, sometimes I'll still grab a Wall Street Journal, but I don't... Like, getting [inaudible 00:46:04] it's just, like, piling up.

G1: A (00:46:06):

Yeah. That's, like, no need for it anymore, when you... Why pay for it when you can get it for free on your phone?

Moderator (00:46:11):

[inaudible 00:46:11]. So now you get, you get, you can get the news for free on your phone?

G1: A (00:46:14):

Yeah. For many sources, you're, it's free. So why pay-

Moderator (00:46:19):

Have you ever tried to access like a newspaper on your phone

G1: D and you can't access it?

G1: A (00:46:22):

Yeah. They want you to subscribe.

Moderator (00:46:23):

So what do you do?

G1: A (00:46:24):

So I just go somewhere else and get the story.

Moderator (00:46:26):

And get the story, yeah.
G1: J (00:46:27):

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 1

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

Participants who use social media shared that they primarily use Facebook and Twitter and sometimes Instagram. One participant who expressed distrust for social media only used Twitter and primarily used Breitbart as their source for news which they described as "objective" despite being considered at one time as right wing.

G1: RC (00:39:20):

... get my news from Breitbart.

G1: RC (00:39:32):

It was founded by, uh, it's a news website founded by Andrew Breitbart-

Speaker 3 (00:39:35):

Hmm.

G1: RC (00:39:35):

Who, uh, at some point in time was considered a right winger.

G1: D (00:39:42):

Hmm.

G1: RC (00:39:42):

So if you want to put it that way, right?

Moderator (00:39:45):

Mm. But what do you like about Breitbart?

G1: RC (00:39:47):

I like that they're very objective. They, they, they give you no spin, Okay?

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 1

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Many acts of a good citizen were described as interactions with strangers rather than friends or family members, suggesting that to them a good citizen is looking out for others in the community, not just relatives or close friends.

G1: T (00:48:53):

Or a guy, there was a guy whose daughter took his car. She broke it, so she taped it. And I pulled up the gas station. He's like this. He's, he's older. [inaudible 00:49:02] he was 87 years old. And I'm like, "Are you okay?" And he goes, "No. Look at my car." And I'm like, I go, "It's fixable." I'm like, "I have bungee cords at my house. I don't live too far. I'll go get 'em. I got jumper cables. We'll take care of this." And he's like, he's like, "I've been sitting on here for like 40 minutes." I'm like, like he's at a gas station. People are stopping, and nobody is helping him. It took me 15 minutes to get home, 15 to come back. It took me 10 minutes to fix this car. And then he's like, "Do you want money?" And I'm like, "I don't want money. I didn't do it for money."

G1: RS (00:50:20):

I thought about that a lot with the casinos during Corona, to be honest. Like, they have all these rooms that were just empty and people were, you know, homeless in the streets. And then what did the city of Las Vegas do? Make it illegal for people to be homeless within city limits. Why not open some of these rooms and let people...I mean, I saw a mom on the corner with two kids on their lap. One on each lap. And I never seen that before, even through the homeless community. And I rented her a room for the weekend because she had two kids. It's like, it's either super cold in Vegas or super hot. And I feel like that would've been something that would've helped our community.

G1: RC (00:51:39):

So I think you can go to, back to the beginning. The golden rule, you know. Treat other people the way you want to be treated.

Civic responsibilities such as jury duty and voting were not raised until prompted. There were mixed feelings about both. Some believed that everyone should be required to do jury duty while others felt it was too much of a "hassle" and took them away from their paying jobs that they could not afford to miss. One participant shared that she didn't vote because nothing changed as a result of her vote and that the Electoral College contributed to them feeling that their vote didn't matter. Another participant defended the Electoral College as a way to keep from electing liberal leaning presidents.

Moderator (00:56:17):

Okay. I want to go back to what are, you know, the duties and, and obligations of a good citizen. What about, um, jury duty or voting? What do you think about that, G1: F?

G1: F (00:56:27):

I think every citizen should have to do it. Every citizen should have to be, do jury duty and vote.

G1: A (00:58:08):

Um, I don't believe that everybody should have to do jury duty if you don't want to. Yeah. I just don't understand why they just don't make it a job and hire people that wanna do it and leave the ones that don't wanna do it alone.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 1

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES CONT

G1: F (00:58:23):

What about the voting though? You think everybody should vote too? Everybody shouldn't have to vote.

G1: A (00:58:27):

Um, I really don't care about the voting either.

Moderator (00:58:31):

Why don't you care?

G1: A (00:58:34):

Because of this, I feel it's a waste of time. I've done it. And, they'll tell you. They'll promise you all these things when they're running. And then when they're in there, they don't do not even half of what they told you that they were gonna do. And I think it's, they, they... They're gonna do whatever they wanna: A do. We have no control. I think they just lead us on, "Oh, go vote, go vote." But it doesn't-

G1: D (00:59:56):

I think jury duty is a hassle. 'cause one, I'm gonna lose pay. And, two, I'm going to be backed up on work the next day. And you know, I've never gotten picked before. It just think it's stupid and it's a hassle. To go downtown, pay for parking and all that, and then sit there all day and you don't, you know. Anyway, there's that. But I think, as far as the, the right to vote, everybody should have the right to vote. Whether you want to use it or not, that's on you. But I think that voting is important. I think that this whole electoral college and the way that it's done is, just, doesn't make sense to me. Um, but I think everybody should have the right to vote. Woman fought for it, so.

Moderator (01:00:38):

The, this electoral college, it doesn't make sense. Does somebody agree with G1: D on that? Or maybe you disagree?

G1: J (01:00:43):

I disagree a hundred percent. That would be... If we don't have electoral college, California and New York would decide who the president was every year.

G1: RS (01:00:52):

Yep.

G1: J (01:00:53):

And that we can't have that happening 'cause we already, we see what those two states produce.

Participants shared that their parents were a major influence in their participating in voting generally and in specific elections.

Moderator (01:06:14):

...what compelled you to vote?

G1: J (01:06:39):

My, my parents, my parents, uh, always kind of encouraged me when I turned 18 to express my opinion by voting. So I was encouraged by my parents to vote every year, so I would.

Moderator (01:08:12):

You never missed one?

G1: A (01:08:13):

No, my mom's always pushed me. Take advantage.

Moderator (01:08:16):

So your mom does?

G1: A (01:08:18):

Yeah. She's like, "Go do it." I'm like, "I don't want-" She's like "Go do it." So. I've always done it because of her.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 1

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

One participant shared that they are leaving the Democratic Party because of the Party's position on LGBTQ+ issues and what they perceived as an anti law enforcement stance. Others in the group concurred.

G1: J (00:53:41):

You know, that's... I've been a Democrat. I've been a Democrat for 37 years. I'm no longer. I'm so sick of listening to what these people have to say. Everything they say is wrong. It's wrong. I know what a man is. I know what a woman is, okay.

G1: T (00:53:54):

Mm-hmm.

G1: J (00:53:54):

I don't want my kids around. I don't want my kids around some guy that wants to dress up like a woman. I'm sorry. Somebody gets their feelings hurt, I'm sorry.

G1: RS (00:54:06):

Or do it in the privacy of your own home.

Moderator (00:54:12):

And, and G1: J, real quick, before you get through [inaudible 00:54:18]. Would you say that, you know, cause you said you were a Democrat and then you stopped. When did that change happen?

G1: J (00:54:23):

I'll tell you exactly when it changed. It changed when, in St. Louis, when the kid pulled out a gun and that crowd. And the cops shot him. And then, two days later, Obama came on TV and said that this police officer shot a kid with a book in his hand. And they had a film of it. CNN had the film of the guy who pulled the gun out, and he sat there and tried to turn the whole country against this police officer who did nothing wrong. [crosstalk 00:54:51] Who did nothing wrong with his job. And he knew darn well. Obama knew darn well, that. And I had voted for this guy. He knew darn well the guy shot, had a gun and pulled it out, and pointed it at the guy and he got shot.

G1: RS (00:55:02):

Mm-hmm.

G1: J (00:55:03):

You know, and Obama tried to turn America against the police department. And I said, "My God, what is, what's happened to my party? What has happened to my party?"

G1: RS (00:55:43):

And also, like he said, a lot... Still to this day, you see videos of, you know, cops, uh, shooting a 17 year old black, you know, whatever. Hispanic kid, it doesn't matter. White kid, it doesn't matter. If you're coming outta your car in a ski mask, and you're running from the police, and your back is turned. You can expect, in my generation at least, I was raised. You can expect to get shot.

G1: J (00:56:01):

(laughs)

G1: RS (00:56:03):

Especially when you're, you know, withholding your identity and you're running from a, a warrant because you stole a piece of gum, or whatever it was. If you know that you... You know, the

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

One participant shared that she did not vote in the last election because neither political party is offering a candidate worth voting for and that their vote didn't make a difference.

Moderator (01:02:49):

Going back RS, you said something about that. You voted in some elections. What, what elections have you voted in and which ones have you not voted in? Can you?

G1: RS (01:02:55):

Um, Obama was an important one that I voted for Obama, but I feel like a lot of things have changed since then. Um, and I became more of an independent party type of a person, uh, since then. I did not vote in this last election but I will be voting in the next election. Um, you know, whether I do or don't, I always participate in watching.

Moderator (01:03:17):

What changed, what changed from when you... So you say you didn't vote last time, but you're gonna vote this time. What's changed? Why, why now and not then?

G1: RS (01:03:24):

Not then, because I felt like, um, neither party was worth voting for. To be honest with you. I didn't feel like it. It didn't really, didn't make a difference.

While Democrats are still viewed as the party that helps the working people, participants expressed disappointment with the democratic party, citing the coronavirus and the economy and rising prices as failed leadership. They don't feel the party cares about them.

G1: D (01:14:28):

Uh, Democratic party. And I put common people and then Republicans, rich people.

G1: T (01:13:01):

Uh, I wrote that they really messed up and...

Moderator (01:13:04):

And what, how did they mess up?

G1: T (01:13:07):

Many things they did with coronavirus, man. Uh, [inaudible 01:13:10] gas. With food, with, you know, the economy and then. You know, it was bad leadership.

Moderator (01:13:19):

Okay. Okay. Uh, G1: A, what about you?

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G1: RS (01:25:32):

To be honest with you in a lot of like, um, these days, it's, it's really, I believe that the Democratic Party may have taken more advantage of minorities in general. Um, just kind of like this whole, like, you know, vote for me because you know, this specific person is voting or they tend to, you know, look for the minority vote more because they live, there are more minorities, but they don't really care about us. They really don't.

G1: RC (01:27:22):

Well, again, you know, I think that the Democratic Party actually has taken the Latino population for granted for many years. What have they done really for the Latino population?

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 1

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

G1: J (01:30:24):

[inaudible 01:30:24]. The, the, y- y- as a people, we're the hardest work... There's absolutely no doubt, we're the hardest working group of people in the world. We're family oriented. We're, we're, we're mostly all have faith. Uh, we're, we're you can go into our neighborhoods and you don't have to worry about your kids getting snatched up by some pervert because we handle our business. But history shows us that it's the Democrats that have tried to keep us down. History shows us the voting. They, the Democrats are the ones that have tried to keep minorities down in this country.

Moderator (01:32:20):

Mm-hmm. So G1: V, how do you feel? Do you feel like the Democrats have let Latinos down or do you feel pretty happy with what they have done? It's okay that you might disagree with other people. We don't expect people to feel the same.

G1: V (01:32:38):

When we were just growing up, you know, uh, I thought they were like the, um, the good guys. You know, that's what I thought growing up, but, uh, you know, it doesn't seem to be that way.

Several expressed that politics is nothing but corruption, serving self-interests and not helping average people. They believe the system is broken and functions only to help the rich.

Moderator (01:14:04):

Millionaires from nothing? Okay, that means... Can you explain that a little bit to me?

G1: J (01:14:08):

Well, you know, they come into office and they have nothing. And twenty years later they're worth \$140 million. I mean...And they only make \$500,000 a year. Math don't add up there.

Moderator (01:15:14):

That's okay. That's okay. G1: RC, what did you write under Democrat?

G1: RC (01:15:15):

Corrupt pandering group of a special interest serving people.

Moderator (01:17:54):

So G1: RC, in, in light of what you said, do you align yourself with one or identify with one party more than the other or [inaudible 01:18:01]?

G1: RC (01:18:01):

No, I don't. You know, and that is the tough... that is, that is, that is the conundrum that I find myself in. That is the, the, the dilemma that I have is like neither one of the parties that we have right now are fit for what we have for our country. They're both have contributed to our decline.

Several expressed that politics is nothing but corruption, serving self-interests and not helping average people. They believe the system is broken and functions only to help the rich.

Moderator (01:33:43):

Common citizens. What about you? We were talking earlier about the Democratic Party and whether or not they've let Latinos down. Do you think the parties let you down or you, or what about the Republican Party? Do you think the Republican parties let you down?

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

G1: A (01:34:04):

I think they both have the way they have been treating the people at the border. And they just give 'em, for example, the asylum. I said, what's called? They get asylum. And it's like three, four, five years from now. And they're hanging in limbo and then they get a job. They start their life. They're, they're living respectfully, not breaking any laws. And then all of a sudden, boom, "Here comes your court date." And they just throw 'em back. And they just built the life out here. It's like, "Give 'em a chance, you know, they're, they're, they're, they're not breaking any laws. They're working hard. They're just trying to better their life and raise their family." And they don't wanna do anything for them. Or like the-

Moderator (01:34:50):

Who's the, the Democrats and the Republicans or just-

G1: A (01:34:51):

Yeah, both of them.

G1: J (01:31:48):

It's a big sham there. And, and the only thing that they got, the only thing that they got that they use and they use in our soft spark spot is our, our people coming across the border. That's the only thing they use against us. And they blame it all on the... on the Republicans. They blame all the bad things on the Republicans at the border and all the immigration problems. These immigration laws have been in existence for doing the exact same thing that Trump was doing. He's the one that built the cages down there.

G1: A (01:35:13):

It's not right what they're doing to these kids. That's, those are our future. But they look, what, why are they less than the ones that are born here? Just because they weren't born on the land. And, and I don't think it's right. I think that they need to do more for them. Especially after they've been here pretty much their whole life. They don't know nothing.

G1: F (01:35:30):

They've been in Mexico. They don't-

G1: A (01:35:31):

This, this is their country. This is their life here. So I feel like they both let them down.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

Key Findings for Group 2

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

For those who chose healthcare as their most important issue, they noted the importance of having affordable access, noting that they consider it to be a right to have it and that everyone should be able to have access.

The cost of housing was brought up as one of the major cost increases they have experienced. The Coronavirus is viewed as having created a rise in housing and all other costs, including groceries, like milk.

Participants blame the government for the bad economy. The stimulus checks were blamed for causing the rise in costs. When pressed on who was responsible, one participant assigned blame to Trump for creating the stimulus checks.

Like housing, abortion was framed as an economic issue. Rather than discuss abortions as having access to healthcare, participants talked about the cost of raising children and the mental stress.

One participant who was previously incarcerated shared the struggles of finding employment in difficult economic times. They thought they lacked opportunities to get their lives back on track.

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Several participants shared that Google, social media apps and the internet in general are their primary sources of news. Apps like Twitter allow them to self-select the news they want to consume.

For one participant, their news consumption was through entertainment style shows rather than the nightly news.

The news finds the participants, rather than them looking for it. News is being delivered to their smartphones through notifications and through social media applications. They appear to be abreast of the latest news as a result of this.

One participant shared that they watch the local news through Facebook rather than on television. They follow the local station and watch the videos that are posted on social media.

There was a general distrust of the media because it is viewed as being owned by corporations with special interests and agendas.

Family are a source for verifying news stories, and they consume news that those family members share on social media apps or in person.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Share a distrust in government and elections. They don't think their vote matters and that the outcome of elections are predetermined. Participants also feel that they aren't educated enough about the elections to go vote.

Despite believing that good citizens have an obligation to do jury duty, one participant shared that they are not registered to vote because they are trying to avoid jury duty. They were not 100% certain that jury duty is tied to voter registration, but didn't register nonetheless.

One participant believed they were not eligible to vote because they had been previously incarcerated.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

There was consensus around the belief that the country had gotten worse under Biden's leadership. Despite not participating in elections, these participants have opinions about politics.

Some of the participants appeared to lack basic knowledge of the U.S. political system and of general symbolism associated with each party.

Several participants denounced the Republican Party and viewed them as racists as well as the Party of Trump.

Participants feel that the political parties do not follow through on promises to the Latino community.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

For those who chose healthcare as their most important issue, they noted the importance of having affordable access, noting that they consider it to be a right to have it and that everyone should be able to have access.

G2: MH (04:29):

Um, I believe everyone deserves access to, to decent healthcare, everyone deserves that right to take care of themselves. Sometimes things always arise that you don't, you don't expect, you also, when you have k- I mean, I don't have kids myself, but I'm sure you wanna make sure that they have access to everything that they need to, at an affordable rate. Um, even the elderly, just everyone, every single [inaudible 00:04:54]-

G2: MB (05:03):

Yeah, pretty much what G2: MH said. And for me, it was shocking to meet people, my husband included, when I met him, his credit score was all over the place, because he had pending medical bills, because he didn't have, uh, health insurance by that time, so... that's why it's so important that everyone has access to healthcare.

G2: T (05:26):

I did say healthcare. I have Medicaid... but I had to go in for a back surgery that I've been waiting for since 2012, they put 10 rods in my back. And I got an infection, and they were gonna send me home because my insurance denied something, which really made me upset. I had an infection in my bones. The infection got in my bones, I was there for five days, and then they sent me home with a PICC line for 45 days of antibiotics. They weren't gonna send me home with the PICC line, they were just gonna... release me and let me go. So, everybody needs the opportunity to have healthcare, even for your children or your husband, I mean, everybody does.

The cost of housing was brought up as one of the major cost increases they have experienced. The Coronavirus is viewed as having created a rise in housing and all other costs, including groceries, like milk.

G2: K (06:13):

Just 'cause I feel like, uh, a- every one of these subjects could go, could, like, trace back to the economy. Um, yeah, just, like, rising costs affect, um, pretty much everything here. Um-

Moderator (06:24):

What, what's been really, like, affecting you in terms of rising costs right now? What's been-

G2: K (06:28):

Um, mostly, like, uh, making decis- decision to buy a home or a rental property. Um, yeah, looking for, like, property to pretty much just kickstart the business.

Moderator (06:44):

Yeah, so you've been wanting to... you've been wanting to buy a home for a while-

G2: K (06:47):

Yeah.

G2: MJ (06:52):

Kind of like the same thing Okay, so single, single mother, and finally get, you know, enough money, well, a little bit of money, good down payment, so I thought. Or I even have enough to maybe get a mobile home or something, but all of a sudden, you know, all the prices go up on everything, and... now, it's, like, not even enough for anything. Then your rent's like \$1000 or more-

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G2: MJ (07:14):

... to pay someone else's mortgage, to just have to move out if you have to, if they want their place back.

G2: MJ (07:19):

I just think it's unfair. I just wish that things were not so expensive, right?

Moderator (07:24):

Has it always been like that, or is that something that's just kinda happened recently?

G2: MJ (07:27):

Well, from my opinion, I don't think rent was that high before, and even the cost of homes were not that high. Like, you can get something decent, you know, maybe, like, I'm just thinking, like, maybe a mobile home or something, like, 30000 [inaudible 00:07:40]-

Moderator (07:40):

When, when did it change?

G2: K (07:45):

Coronavirus.

G2: MJ (07:45):

You know, I think it's since the corona-

G2: K (07:45):

Yeah.

G2: MJ (07:45):

... I want to say since the coronavirus, but I don't know if I'm right guys. But... I'm gonna say since coronavirus, even milk, I mean, even the cost of food is so high. I don't know if anyone else has a problem, but (laughs)... speaking for me.

Participants blame the government for the bad economy. The stimulus checks were blamed for causing the rise in costs. When pressed on who was responsible, one participant assigned blame to Trump for creating the stimulus checks.

G2: I (08:58):

Yeah, I also wanna make a comment about why I feel like the economy has gotten bad.

Moderator (09:03):

Yes.

G2: I (09:03):

Also because, yes, because of COVID, but we have, like, my thought process is, um, they, this, you know, like, the United States has printed a lot of money for the stimulus, so I feel like we had it coming for us.

G2: I (09:19):

Like, it was, like, they were giving, like, 1200, and then, I don't know, 600, and it's like, our money, our dollars, lost value. So, it means that everything just went up.

Moderator (09:29):

Who do you think is responsible for that? Who, who did that?

G2: I (09:32):

I feel like there's just so much bad to it. You know?

Moderator (09:37):

Yeah, I mean, but who actually did, like, who made the decision to print the money or do the stimulus?

Who do you, who do you attribute that to?

G2: I (09:43):

The government.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

Moderator (09:51):

Like, the Biden administration, or Trump, or what do, who do you think-

G2: I (09:55):

Um, obviously-

Moderator (09:55):

Democrats, Republicans, who do you think-

G2: I (09:58):

... Trump, he, he, his, I feel like his intention was really, like, to help us out... and then with everything, I feel like with inflation, it was, it just, like, has gone up a lot. I feel like he just did things the wrong way, but his intention was good, you know? And I'm not saying, like, "Oh, I vote for him," but it's just like, I feel like things, like, you know, you get what I mean? Like, he, his intention was, like, "I'm gonna help you guys out, I'm gonna give you guys money because you guys stopped working, you guys are sick, this, this and that," you know, taxes... giving a lot of taxes for kids, um, but I feel like that's why our economy has gotten, you know, inflation had gone bad, bad, like, food is expensive-

Like housing, abortion was framed as an economic issue. Rather than discuss abortions as having access to healthcare, participants talked about the cost of raising children and the mental stress.

G2: I (11:23):

Oh yeah, my thing on abortion is because it's been a, a big topic right now, because of a lot of states are making it a law to not be legal. So, my thought on that is back to the economy. A lot of people, you know, can't, don't have the money to raise kids. They don't have everything that it takes to raise kids. They're not mentally stable enough to raise kids. And, yet, the government, or whoever it is, wants to force them to have these kids, when in reality they know they can't have 'em, and that's why they go get abortions. If they can't get abortions, we're just gonna have foster homes filled with kids that are not wanted, come with mental problems... come with trauma, because their parents didn't give 'em the attention they needed.

Moderator (12:10):

Okay. Thank you, G2: I for sharing that. G2: G, you also put abortion as your main concern, do you wanna tell me-

G2: G (12:16):

Yeah, the, the same thing that, uh, she says, and, uh, I think it's very important because, like she says, there's a lot of them that can't afford 'em-

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

One participant who was previously incarcerated shared the struggles of finding employment in difficult economic times. They thought they lacked opportunities to get their lives back on track.

G2: G (13:22):

Jobs.

Moderator (13:23):

Jobs. What about jobs?

G2: G (13:27):

For, like, the ex felons and stuff like that.

Moderator (13:29):

What was that?

G2: G (13:30):

For ex felons, that they don't have, like, any [inaudible 00:13:30]-

Moderator (13:30):

Oh, ex felons don't have opportunities-

G2: G (13:32):

Yes.

Moderator (13:32):

... like, yeah, to, to get employed-

G2: G (13:34):

Yeah.

Moderator (13:34):

... once they get out. Yeah, there's no opportunity.

G2: G (13:36):

No. They, like, they tell you that there is, but then when you go up there, you're there for months, and then all of a sudden, they tell you you gotta go.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Several participants shared that Google, social media apps and the internet in general are their primary sources of news. Apps like Twitter allow them to self-select the news they want to consume.

Moderator (13:56):

What would you say the main source of your news is from right now? What's the main source, anybody?

G2: MB (14:09):

Google

G2: K (14:13):

Independent research.

Moderator (14:14):

Independent research, what does that mean?

G2: K (14:15):

Um, just looking pretty much, uh, looking at anyone on, either, like, YouTube, or online... that has a presence online, that you could actually, um, assess something, that backs it up with facts. It's not just saying, like, a blank statement, um, that actually, that they have facts with the statement.

Moderator (15:52):

Okay. So, G2: MH, where do you get your news from?

G2: MH (15:58):

Uh, I like Twitter a lot.

Moderator (15:59):

Oh, you do.

G2: MH (15:59):

Personally, yeah. Not, not necessarily, like, um, individual tweets made by actual people, but many times, something happens, where... you can pretty much, like, customize what you wanna see there.

Moderator (16:15):

Do you ever look, would you say on Twitter that you're reading Tweets, or your watching videos, what would you say that you're doing?

G2: MH (16:24):

So, there's a, um, there's, like, a, a news portion, or, like what's going on. Like, the trending portion, I guess. But from there, you can filter what results you wanna see. Um, and that could be whatever. Whatever news is happening daily, weekly.

Moderator (17:33):

You only have Netflix. So where are you gonna get your news, G2: MJ?

G2: MJ (17:34):

I have internet.

Moderator (17:35):

The internet.

G2: MJ (17:35):

I'm on the phone all the time (laughing).

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

G2: MJ (17:45):

I just scroll through, I just scroll. Like, sometimes [inaudible 00:17:47] I don't even know how to use my new phone yet. So, my kids me a iPhone, okay, so I'm still learning (laughing). But my, my kids, I lers- I learn more from the kids, 'cause-

Moderator (17:54):

E- is it, like, Facebook, Instagram, what are you looking at?

G2: MJ (17:56):

Um, y- yeah, m- more like, uh, Instagram, or, uh, I don't know, just Google whatever it is I wanna know about, like, coronavirus, I'll type it in.

Moderator (18:58):

Okay. Um, I, what about you, what are you, what, what's the main source of news that you get?

G2: I (19:02):

Um, I'll see Facebook. 'Cause they share, like, a lot of, like, if something happens in Vegas, they'll share it... and there'll just be, like, a lot of shares, or if something happens, like, with the government, or a change, gas prices-

For one participant, their news consumption was through entertainment style shows rather than the nightly news.

G2: MB (16:53):

Uh, if something interesting happens, you know, from the Supreme Court in Washington, we like to watch the night, uh, TV shows, you know... uh, Jimmy Kimmel, Jimmy Fallon, Stephen Colbert, 'cause they give, like, a different perspective, and explain, you know, in friendly words... what just happened, benefits or consequences, um, and it's a fun way to find out what's... going on.

The news finds the participants, rather than them looking for it. News is being delivered to their smartphones through notifications and through social media applications. They appear to be abreast of the latest news as a result of this.

Moderator (18:58):

Okay. Um, Isabelle, what about you, what are you, what, what's the main source of news that you get?

G2: I (19:02):

Um, I'll see Facebook.

G2: I (19:04):

'Cause they share, like, a lot of, like, if something happens in Vegas, they'll share it-

G2: G (20:11):

The phones that I have, it just pops up on a notification. Like, if I'm on the phone, and something happens in Vegas-

G2: MJ (20:18):

Yeah.

G2: G (20:19):

... if something really serious happens, then I'll click on it.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

Moderator (18:03):

Okay, so, when you say you're scrolling-

G2: MJ (18:05):

Whatever pops up.

Moderator (18:06):

... your, Google, or you're scrolling Facebook, or Instagram?

G2: MJ (18:08):

Yeah, just Google.

Moderator (23:24):

Where do you get your news from?

G2: T (23:26):

Uh, my news, I look through, I'll go to Google, or I have a news on my phone where I can-

Moderator (23:30):

The news.

G2: T (23:30):

Yeah. Breaking news.

One participant shared that they watch the local news through Facebook rather than on television. They follow the local station and watch the videos that are posted on social media.

Moderator (19:33):

And you follow them on Facebook?

G2: I (19:34):

Yeah.

Moderator (19:35):

Now, when you, when you get on that Fox 5 News, do you, like, watch the videos, or are you, like, reading the stories? What, what do you prefer to do? Do you r- look at the videos, or are you reading the stories?

G2: I (19:44):

Yeah, I look at the videos. It's just easier for me to just know all the T-

There was a general distrust of the media because it is viewed as being owned by corporations with special interests and agendas.

Moderator (15:16):

But if somebody gets censored from YouTube, what does that mean?

G2: K (15:18):

Like, they're not part of the, they're not following the agenda that, um, these big corporations have.

Like, if someone says, um, coronavirus is, like, say, manmade, or say it was like a, um, just something other than, like, uh, what the regular media says on TV-

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

Families are a source for verifying news stories, and they consume news that those family members share on social media apps or in person.

Moderator (19:13):

And are you, is that, like, people that your friends and family, or is it stuff that's getting f- like, people that you're following, or is it, like, [inaudible 00:19:21]-

G2: I (19:21):

Yeah, it's like friends and family, they'll share, like, "Oh this is going on." Or, "This... drunk driver did this, and you know, here in Vegas." Um, also I follow Fox 5 News-

Moderator (19:53):

But what makes, um, one news source more trustworthy than another?

G2: MJ (19:59):

That's why it's best to go to all of them. I, for me, I'm serious, I just go to what I understand, you know, and get a little bit from them all... and then call the kids to confirm it (laughs). For me.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Share a distrust in government and elections. They don't think their vote matters and that the outcome of elections are predetermined. Participants also feel that they aren't educated enough about the elections to go vote.

Moderator (32:49):

What about you, G2: K, does your vote matter?

G2: K (32:51):

Um, personally, I don't really think so. I feel like it's just, like, a little game they give us to kinda, like, entertain us, and the decision's already been made. Um, and that's part of, like, the whole censorship, and the gena- agenda, um, that I was talking about, is that we've pretty much, like, all lost hope, and we don't know what to believe, and what not, what to believe and what not to believe, um, because they tell us one thing, and then it's not, it's not that. Like, firstly, like, how many times have they changed, when they told us that the vaccine was gonna help us, and the [inaudible 00:33:21]-

Moderator (33:21):

Yeah, you keep saying they, who, who is they? 'Cause Isabelle's they is some-

G2: K (33:25):

Yeah.

Moderator (33:25):

Who is your they? When you say they-

G2: K (33:27):

Um, my they is, is pretty much people who are in control of the, um, pretty much of, like, like, there's a whole people who above, um, like, the President, and, like, uh, a lot of these government officials, um, there's people on top that pretty much, like, control them, um-

G2: MH (36:36):

Um, like I said, earlier, I just don't know what's gonna happen. So, how can I be interested in something that I don't know what the result would be?

Moderator (36:48):

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Do you trust elections to be true and accurate? Do you trust that they will, that they're not fair?

G2: MH (36:51):

I mean, that's just, that's just the thing, like, it all goes back to just not knowing. I, I don't know.

Moderator (39:02):

And why, what, what makes you feel this way? What, why are you not interested in voting?

G2: MJ (39:06):

Because again, I feel like it doesn't matter. I feel like, uh, it's just a- I don't know why, I, I know I'm not very educated on it, on who they are, and what they do, but I just think that our vote doesn't matter.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES CONT

Despite believing that good citizens have an obligation to do jury duty, one participant shared that they are not registered to vote because they are trying to avoid jury duty. They were not 100% certain that jury duty is tied to voter registration, but didn't register nonetheless.

G2: MB (34:36):

I don't know. But that is not the reason why I don't vote. Um, I don't wanna sound ignorant, I don't know if it's true or not, but, um, I was told, and I have seen it with my in-laws, that when you register to vote, it's like they use the same pool of names, and then you get called for jury duty. And that's, I, I don't, I don't wanna be called for jury duty. And I've never been called to jury duty, 'cause I'm not, I'm not registered.

One participant believed they were not eligible to vote because they had been previously incarcerated.

G2: G (37:11):

I just told them I couldn't.

Moderator (37:11):

You couldn't.

G2: G (37:11):

Yeah.

Moderator (37:11):

Mm-hmm.

G2: G (37:12):

'Cause of my background. That would, yeah, don't think it's, 'cause what's happened to me, I don't think it was fair. But the [inaudible 00:37:19] I just don't.

Moderator (37:22):

And now that, that I guess, I guess it's fair to say that you got that right taken away from you.

G2: G (37:28):

Yeah, a long time ago.

Moderator (37:28):

Do you want it back?

G2: G (37:30):

Um, like, now I just feel like it doesn't, sometimes it doesn't even matter.

Moderator (37:35):

What do you mean it doesn't matter?

G2: G (37:36):

'Cause, uh, politics, I just fee- feel like it's their decision

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

There was consensus around the belief that the country had gotten worse under Biden's leadership. Despite not participating in elections, these participants have opinions about politics.

Moderator (24:04):

A few. What, okay, so G2: MH says no, I, do you follow any political stuff?

G2: I (24:08):

Yeah, I try to keep up with Biden.

Moderator (24:10):

You do? Why's that important to you?

G2: I (24:14):

Just because I feel like, ever since he got in office, a lot of things have been bad. Um, I feel like he doesn't really have control over anything. He kinda just lets everybody control him around. You know, like, people around him control. Um, so I feel like he doesn't really put his foot down. And that really does affect all of us, because of gas, of inflation... everything going up, like, the market is super high right now, it's not gonna crash any time soon. So it's just things like that, that I wanna do in the future, like, I wanna buy a house in the future.

Some of the participants appeared to lack basic knowledge of the U.S. political system and of general symbolism associated with each party.

G2: MJ (39:53):

Can I ask something?

Moderator (39:54):

Yeah.

G2: MJ (39:55):

What's Democratic?

Moderator (39:56):

Oh, okay. And that's a fair question. So, you wanna know what the Democratic Party is?

G2: MJ (40:01):

Party, yeah.

Moderator (40:01):

Okay.

G2: MJ (40:01):

What's the Democratic Party? Who is that? What is that?

Moderator (40:04):

Does anybody wanna answer that? What do you think?

G2: G (40:08):

If I knew, I'd put it [inaudible 00:40:08]-

Moderator (42:24):

Do you know the colors?

G2: MJ (42:26):

I know one is blue and one is red, but which one is-

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

Moderator (42:28):

Does anybody know which one is which? Does [inaudible 00:42:32]-

G2: I (42:31):

Blue is Democratic, right?

G2: MJ (48:46):

I, I, I wish I knew a little bit more, um, I wish I was more educated on it, or did more research so I could speak more right now (laughs). 'Cause I do like to talk, but, um, (laughing), but, but, um, just, just from, like, what I hear, you know, like, for instance, um, the Democratic Party how they said hire, they hire, they're the reason why our gas is high, and so I would say that that's the negativeness for me. Um, all the things that ain't for us, all the things that, that ain't for us, I, I would have to say. But, like, again, I'm not really educated on it to know if I'm even saying it the right way. But that's, that's what... I have to say.

Several participants denounced the Republican Party and viewed them as racists as well as the Party of Trump.

Moderator (43:20):

Okay. And what did you put for Republican Party?

G2: MB (43:22):

Uh, Trump, racist, and "Pro life."

G2: T (45:58):

I put racism.

G2: K (45:59):

(laughs).

Moderator (45:59):

Racism on the- And what makes you, that's the Republican part, right?

G2: T (46:02):

Tr- yeah, that's the Republican.

Moderator (46:03):

And what makes you say racism?

G2: T (46:04):

Because, um Trump, uh, I don't know if, uh, you recall, or he had fired one of his, um, it was a woman that he had termed-

G2: G (49:56):

That's how I feel, 'cause that's why, that's why so probably, the Republicans are more, you know, like, about racism and everything like that, like, like, what they're saying, like, whether they will help out or not. A lot of people, you know, they, they come, they come here, they have their kids here, and then, um, the, they have to be, like, um, they have to have certain things, or certain rules, certain guidelines, whatever, just because, um, their kids were born here. And they don't allow them to be, like, citizens, which they deserve. They deserve it as much as anybody else.

G2: K (54:48):

I feel like the Republicans you can just trust them to, to, like, uh, to be straight up. Like, if they're, like, racist, or they don't feel, um, right about a certain subject, or topic, they're gonna tell you how it is, compared to the Democrats, they're gonna sell you, they're gonna be, like, they're gonna be more-

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

Participants feel that the political parties do not follow through on promises to the Latino community.

Moderator (46:33):

Do you think the parties are inviting and opening to Latinos, or what do you think about the political parties?

G2: K (46:41):

Only when it benefits them.

G2: MB (46:48):

Exactly, yeah.

G2: K (46:48):

(laughs) Yeah. They sell you a dream. They sell you a dream.

Moderator (46:48):

What did you say, G2: K?

G2: K (46:49):

They just sell you a dream.

Moderator (50:56):

So, that brings up the issue of immigration. What do you think the Democrats and Republicans are doing on the issue of immigration?

G2: I (51:04):

They just tell you what you wanna hear because of how many Hispanic kids, or adults there are now... in the United States. I feel like there's a lot of Latinos-

G2: I (51:14):

... so we're the ones voting now. And, uh, they tell us what we wanna hear, like, "Oh, we're gonna get your parents' papers-

G2: G (51:21):

Yeah.

G2: I (51:21):

... your, your parents are gonna be able to, you know, get their taxes, you know, pay taxes, this." Like, our parents pay taxes, so they should be getting money back, you know-

G2: G (51:29):

Right.

G2: I (51:29):

... not just for us. Um, not just us, but I feel like they tell us what we wanna hear, like, "Yeah, vote for me, I'm gonna make sure your parents get, you know, good paying jobs... um, immigrants this, immigrants that," and it makes us, "Oh my god, we're gonna go vote for them, because my mom and dad can ha- so then my mom and dad can have papers."

G2: MB (52:13):

I'm sorry, they're equally the same. What I've seen is, uh, the Democratic Party, uh, tends to use the Latino vote to get them to office. Like, during the election process, you would see the Democratic, um, candidate, um, touring [inaudible 00:52:37] Telemundo, you know, promising that, "Yeah, we're, we

care about immigration." And here's the fun fact, when, uh, Trump was in office, do you guys remember that there was this awful news that the kids whose parents have been deported were kept

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

Key Findings for Group 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Participants feel that the economy is going in the wrong direction. High cost is driving their attitudes about this and they expressed concern about the national debt and how that will affect families and future generations.

Participants believe that there is a value in getting an education. They felt that education is key to success and getting ahead in the U.S., but felt that immigrants are not giving the same educational opportunities as others.

Participants expressed concern that legal immigrants coming into the country are not given the support they need from the government to help them achieve the American dream, which they believe everyone has the right to.

In discussions about racism, one participant believes that younger generations are driving for more inclusion and politically correct language, while others were mixed on whether racism was on the rise or decline. Racism was also framed as an issue of skin color more so than culture.

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Participants shared that they consume a great deal of their news from their smartphones. They don't have to seek it out. The news is delivered to them through alerts or on social media feeds.

Participants view the United States in context of other countries. They often compare the U.S. to other countries and express a more "world view" of issues.

Social media was not trusted by several in the group, particularly Facebook. Facebook was described as being good for the spread of gossip.

None of the participants read the local newspaper, calling it antiquated and ancient. Paywalls were seen as a barrier. One participant shared that they believed it was a waste of money to pay for access to stories, as the content quickly becomes yesterday's news.

There is some distrust of Google because of the advertising aspect of the platform on searches. It was expressed that YouTube was more trusted because there are no advertisements associated with searches that prioritizes videos or content.

One participant noted that they trusted Infowars as a source of information on political news. The participant brought up Infowars several times during the discussion.

Spanish language news was described as being more forthright and graphic in its news coverage. This is positively received by participants. Participants also noted that differences exist among all news channels and they believe each gives a different version of the news, and suggest they are pushing a political agenda. News was described as being on "one side" or another.

There was no consensus on whether television or social media news is better at delivering unbiased news.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

The concept of a Good Citizen was framed as someone who is law abiding. Following societal rules was important to this group as was civic responsibilities such as love for country and voting.

Several participants expressed that they thought that their vote didn't matter specifically because of the Electoral College. They also believed that money had a big role in controlling the outcome of elections.

There was a sense of pessimism in the group that stems from a feeling that the system is corrupt and therefore the government is not working for them. They also express voting for one thing only to find the government doing the opposite, such as engaging in war. These sentiments have arisen in recent times.

The group did not appear to be motivated to vote by the recent Supreme Court decisions. They did not connect their vote in November to having influence or effect on the Supreme Court.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

Donald Trump was viewed as being stronger and braver, and not subservient to governments outside the United States. His foreign policy was viewed as better than that of Biden because of his toughness. Others see the Democratic Party as weak.

Attitudes about Trump were mixed. One participant expressed not wanting Trump to be re-elected, while another praised him as a good businessman whose leadership had the economy on the right track. Yet, another participant noted his failed history as a businessman and suggested that Trump used the presidency to get rich and sell products.

Participants expressed that under the Democratic Party leadership the economy has gotten worse. They feel that promises were made on the economy and immigration, but nothing is being done to address these issues. One participant suggested that the party makes promises to get votes and win elections, but then does not follow through, and view the Republican Party as being better on the economy. Several participants expressed that the parties only reach out to Latinos when they need votes to win elections.

Concerns were expressed that the U.S. Government under democratic leadership would become dysfunctional and corrupt, like that of Venezuela. One believed that the U.S. is paying too much attention to other countries and not taking care of its citizens in America.

One participant believes that the Democratic Party is too liberal because of its emphasis on using inclusive language, specifically pronouns. They felt that non-gendered pronouns were not accurate.

One participant expressed a feeling that the political system corrupts everyone, Democrat and Republican. *It's a way for them to get rich.*

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Participants feel that the economy is going in the wrong direction. High cost is driving their attitudes about this and they expressed concern about the national debt and how that will affect families and future generations.

G3:EZ (00:15:55):

I feel that there are a lot of things, like for example the government gave stimulus to a lot of people. So, I think that they want to raise all the prices, they want to have again that money back that they gave away, that they obviously say they gave away, but at the same time they're going to charge us taxes.

Moderator: (00:18:31):

Right now, would you say the economy is on a good path or bad path?

Group: (00:18:36):

Bad path.

G3: R (00:18:40):

Well, the United States is indebted with trillions and trillions and takes out one, takes out a loan on the house where it has the gold, the silver, and makes bills and coins and takes out more money to cover other debts, and gets into debt with those interests and takes out the money again and covers another one and makes interest with this one and so it is covering it. From one debt hole, they take out to make a bigger one that they will never be able to pay off right now.

G3: G (00:19:07):

Never again, the interest

G3: G (00:19:11):

Our children and grandchildren are going to be paying for everything.

G3: M (00:20:25):

Well, I think it has to do also with what is happening in the increase of everything that was going up. A lot of people can't pay for housing; they can't have a car because they can't put gas in it. And, well, they stay poor or they live with families. Then they have problems, if they have to leave and they're like

Participants feel that the economy is going in the wrong direction. High cost is driving their attitudes about this and they expressed concern about the national debt and how that will affect families and future generations.

G3: G (00:16:50):

Just as we had said a while ago that education is the key to everything, so it's connected. Good economy and good education, but you have to educate one to make good decisions in the economy, in the security of the country, in racism, in all kinds of those issues, education is the main base, the main thing. I think that's where we have to invest our... Being a parent, I feel that we have to invest our time and money in education.

Moderator (00:17:20):

And G3: J, you want to add to that, right?

G3: J (00:17:24):

No, I don't perfectly agree with him. Here I've seen a lot of people coming from other countries to the schools when I was in school and they come here with a greater knowledge of things that they didn't, that they didn't teach us here. So, they do give a lot of opportunities to this country, but we're far

behind in terms of education in other countries.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

Participants expressed concern that legal immigrants coming into the country are not given the support they need from the government to help them achieve the American dream, which they believe everyone has the right to.

G3: J (00:23:44):

Well, this is basically the migration here in the United States. It's getting more and more. I don't necessarily mean illegal people, but immigrants, with papers, because they don't just come from one place, they come from all over the world. And the government does nothing to try to help these people who come.

Moderator (00:24:13):

G3:EZ, do you agree or not?

G3: EZ (00:24:15):

Yes, I feel that anyone has the opportunity to get ahead. And I feel that when you come to this country and you work hard, you deserve the American dream and you deserve to be in this country. In discussions about racism, one participant believes that younger generations are driving for more inclusion and politically correct language, while others were mixed on whether racism was on the rise or decline. Racism was also framed as an issue of skin color more so than culture.

G3: ED (00:25:24):

I feel like it's kind of in the middle. I feel like there used to be more. Now not as much as... now they're more pickier here, now they're with we shouldn't say this, this and this shouldn't because it's now more... They want to change everything.

Moderator (00:25:50):

OK, who are they, who are they that they want to change?

G3: ED (00:25:55):

Our... The new generation, uh-huh, they want to change everything. In a way that should be fair, but...

G3: C (00:26:54):

Me. Yes, there is, and among Latinos too, I mean when you have a girl, for example, and then she's going to marry a really dark skinned guy, "how are you going to marry this black guy" and well it exists, they exist everywhere. And, but, but yes, I mean there is less, there is less because of the rules and cooperation and all that, there is less, there is less, but it exists, it still exists.

G3: O (00:27:53):

There's more racism. We're after the young man, now there's more racism too. Like I tell you it's been connecting everything for a while because now with what happened in Uvalde Texas. It is the most racist because people are now connected to us. With mentality and see that this person killed children, there are others that killed this black guy that killed those that were in the church because they were black. That's racism.

G3:EO (00:29:20):

So, I gave 5 to racism because now there are laws that protect you, so a little bit of racism or like before there was nothing and you had to put up with all that, especially the dark skinned so.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Participants shared that they consume a great deal of their news from their smartphones. They don't have to seek it out. The news is delivered to them through alerts or on social media feeds.

Moderator (00:28:21):

OK. Well, we're talking about a lot of issues and I want to know where do you go to learn more about these things or to find out what's going on in your community, community or the world, where do you go to?

G3: EO (00:28:36):

Eduardo: We all go to the phones and....

G3: J (00:29:02):

Juan Carlos: Everything is already on the phone nowadays. There's nothing that escapes the phone cameras.

G3:R (00:32:27):

Apple News, well you almost always get a notification when you're with....

Moderator (00:32:20):

On your phone?

G3:R (00:32:31):

On Apple [Inaudible 00:32:32]

Moderator (00:32:33):

And you don't have to select that?

G3:R (00:32:34):

Rogelio: No, that comes up on its own. If you're Apple, yeah. You already have your phone updated. But no, I almost don't like them. The news is all bad news then.

Moderator (00:33:03):

You don't care. Well, when you go... Elizabeth, I was seeing and she says you go on Facebook and you see news. María also says it's pure lies, are you watching videos or are you reading it, how does it come out in the news that you're watching? Is it from watching videos or are you reading it as a story? Mostly.

G3: ED (00:33:24):

Sometimes it sends you an article directly [Inaudible 00:33:22].

Moderator (00:34:04):

And so the local news that's on the phone do you have it through an app or do you watch it through Facebook?

G3: ED (00:34:11):

On Facebook when you're scrolling. Sometimes people put [Inaudible 00:34:15], they put a link that sends you straight to a website. Participants view the United States in context of other countries. They often compare the U.S. to other countries and express a more "world view" of issues.

G3: O (00:30:39):

I look a lot at other people's news from other countries. There's a channel on TV, it's France 24 so we get a lot of news because it's from all over the world, not just here. So I like to see everything that is happening everywhere. In Africa everything is connected with the war and everything.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

Moderator (00:35:04):

OK. G3: C, what channel do you watch for your local news?

G3: C (00:35:09):

France 24. That's what it's called and they talk about all over the world.

Social media was not trusted by several in the group, particularly Facebook. Facebook was described as being good for the spread of gossip.

Moderator (00:31:02):

And, does anyone use social networks, I mean as your main source of getting news.

[Crosstalk]

G3: M (00:31:11):

I don't because... Infowars. iNews. On Facebook you can't believe anything.

Moderator (00:31:16):

On Facebook, you can't believe anything.

G3: M (00:31:20):

For real news: no, for gossip: yes, it's okay.

Moderator (00:31:27):

G3: EZ, what do you think? Does Facebook tell you lies about political news or is it pure...?

G3: EZ (00:31:34):

It's that Facebook is kind of double-edged. I feel like you can understand something that is not and then this, after researching, sometimes it's not real, sometimes it's not, it's a lie. So I feel that social media, as I say, is double-edged, that is, you use it for good, but you can also use it for bad. So, you

None of the participants believe everything you see right? That's my opinion and ancient. Paywalls were seen as a barrier. One participant shared that they believed it was a waste of money to pay for access to stories, as the content quickly becomes yesterday's news.

Moderator (00:35:17):

And nobody reads the newspaper at all or...?

[Crosstalk]

G3: C (00:35:24):

That's so ancient.

[Laughter.]

G3: C (00:35:34)

I mean every once in a while if I'm on [Inaudible 00:35:38], sometimes or the front page, "oh, this happened" and so. OK. there I go, but, I mean, of buying a newspaper, no.

[Laughter]

[Crosstalk]

G3: C (00:35:55):

That's become very antiquated.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

G3: G (00:37:00)

Like now [Inaudible 00:37:02] Texas. [Inaudible 00:37:04] For here or there. Another reason for the newspaper that you're not [Inaudible 00:37:09] going to have to pay one to read for a little bit and then in the trash. So, it's like wasted.

There is some distrust of Google because of the advertising aspect of the platform on searches. It was expressed that YouTube was more trusted because there are no advertisements associated with searches that prioritizes videos or content.

G3: M (00:39:09):

What happens is YouTube has things that other people upload, anybody can upload something on YouTube and Google, I mean who's going to upload it is handled by them, no, so it's different.

G3: G (00:39:23):

You have to pay to ask, but on YouTube you can see a video saying that the economy is very ugly and another video, but the food is very good. What you're looking for, you're going to read it.

G3: EO (00:39:39):

It's more to people's opinion.

G3: M (00:39:42):

It's more a an opinion that what Google is is for really looking for what you're looking for, a quick answer.

G3: R (00:39:48)

R: It's more educational

One participant noted that they trusted Infowars as a source of information on political news. The participant brought up Infowars several times during the discussion.

Moderator (00:40:11):

Which outlet do you trust the most out of all the ones we were talking about? Maybe we didn't talk about something, but which media outlets do you trust the most? In political news, I mean.

G3: O (00:40:37):

Octavia: Infowars.com

Spanish language news was described as being more forthright and graphic in its news coverage. This is positively received by participants. Participants also noted that differences exist among all news channels and they believe each gives a different version of the news, and suggest they are pushing a political agenda. News was described as being on “one side” or another.

G3: C (00:41:23):

I love Primer Impacto because that's where... They show it all there, there's nothing that they erase it....

Moderator (00:41:35):

Do they show it all?

G3: C (00:41:36):

Charles: Yes.

Moderator (00:41:37):

And is that good or bad?

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

G3: C (00:41:38):

It's good. I say the truth is the truth, otherwise even the Americans don't erase it like that. The dead man is here and they erase it. There in Primer Impacto you see the dead guy. OK

G3: J (00:42:02):

I, little bit of both because anyway no, not everybody, not everybody is going to give you the point of view that they're grabbing. That's why I prefer to look at several reports on the same thing and do my own research of what I saw and make my own opinion of what I'm looking at in front of my eyes.

G3: M (00:42:31):

Yes, that's true. Because sometimes you see something on, for example, Univision, and you go to Google or you go to YouTube or you go to an ABC News channel wherever it is it's a little bit different and I think there's a difference between the news that comes out on social media and the news that comes out on television.

G3: O (00:43:16):

Television has always shown us what they want you to see. And convince you to be on their side.

There was no consensus on whether television or social media news is better at delivering unbiased news.

Moderator (00:42:53):

Yeah, and how are the differences, what's the difference between news that's on social media and television?

G3: R (00:42:59):

Less manipulated.

Moderator (00:43:01):

Which one?

G3: R (00:43:02):

The one on social media.

Moderator (00:43:03):

Social networks are less...

G3: R (00:43:04):

They are less manipulated.

[Crosstalk]

G3: M (00:43:05):

I think the opposite. I think television is more current [Inaudible 00:43:12] more real than the ones you see on social media.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

The concept of a Good Citizen was framed as someone who is law abiding. Following societal rules was important to this group as was civic responsibilities such as love for country and voting.

Moderator (00:43:30):

I mean what are the most important duties, obligations that you have to have as a member of this society?

G3: O (00:44:01):

Respect the law.

G3: EO (00:44:05):

Respect the law.

G3: M (00:44:06):

María: Respect the law.

G3: ED (00:40:39)

Be loyal to the country.

G3: O (00:45:06):

Vote.

Moderator (00:45:07):

Vote, vote? Does a good citizen vote?

Several participants expressed that they thought that their vote didn't matter specifically because of the Electoral College. They also believed that money had a big role in controlling the outcome of elections.

Group (00:45:12):
Yes.

Moderator (00:50:52):

Do you think your vote matters?

G3: ED (00:50:55):

With everything that they do that they don't, how do they choose the vote, how do you say, the popular one: no.

Moderator (00:51:06):

OK. and, Juan Carlos, do you think your vote matters or not?

G3: J (00:51:09):

No. I am the same, I think that the electoral college makes it very difficult for your vote to matter how it should matter.

G3: EO (00:51:28):

Yes, I also think that what I mean is that everything is well manipulated, so...

Moderator (00:51:34):

By who?

G3: EO (00:51:38):

From the government. When they do campaigns they go to those states that have more electoral college and there they do their campaigns, their campaigns. And, obviously if you have more money, it happens to represent you better

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES CONT

There was a sense of pessimism in the group that stems from a feeling that the system is corrupt and therefore the government is not working for them. They also express voting for one thing only to find the government doing the opposite, such as engaging in war. These sentiments have arisen in recent times.

Moderator (00:53:24):

How it's going to be. Well, thinking about other times when you didn't go to vote. You don't know, can you tell me about an election where you didn't go to vote and why you didn't vote?

G3: R (00:53:36):

The last one, no.

Moderator (00:53:37):

No, why not?

G3: R (00:53:39):

I didn't want to, it's all kind of fake to me. So, I didn't go.

Moderator (00:53:45):

Why do you feel that way? What makes you feel that way?

G3: R (00:53:46):

Rogelio: I feel that we are like puppets of the government. [Inaudible 00:53:53]

Moderator (00:53:58):

And have you always felt that way?

G3: R (00:54:00):

No. Lately it's like everything is more corrupt, everything is worse and worse. That's what I feel that the government is getting more and more in their favor. In their favor.

G3: EZ (00:54:13):

Same. I did go to vote, but my goal was to stop the war. That was my goal, that's why, I went to vote for Joe Biden because I thought it was going to be a change, but already after I'm seeing that he's helping other countries with the war for us to get in line, it makes us that we have more in danger. So, for me, my goal was the war rather than to stop the war. And that's one of the things that doesn't look here. This war to see what was important to me. I would have given it a 10 plus because for me, obviously, the war is something that anyone..

The group did not appear to be motivated to vote by the recent Supreme Court decisions. They did not connect their vote in November to having influence or effect on the Supreme Court.

Moderator (00:59:13):

But the Supreme Court decisions that have passed recently, does that make you reason to go vote?

G3: O (00:59:21):

Octavia: If they're not helpful, yes.

G3: EO (00:59:23):

The unemployment problem maybe it's because they serve for life, there's nothing, I mean, no. [Crosstalk]

Moderator (00:59:31):

No, but I mean, I'm talking about the decisions that they've made, does that give you reason to go vote?

G3: M (00:59:37):

Well a little bit, but no, they don't give us the choice of who's going to be on the Supreme Court, us.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

Donald Trump was viewed as being stronger and braver, and not subservient to governments outside the United States. His foreign policy was viewed as better than that of Biden because of his toughness. Others see the Democratic Party as weak.

Moderator (00:54:58):

And what war are you talking about?

G3: EZ (00:55:01):

Elizabeth: The one in Ukraine or which war the president helped in. Yeah, he helped in this. So, to us that puts us in danger because he's saying that Russia is thinking that we are also in wars with them. So, already that puts every one of us Americans in danger. And that's what the president didn't look at. He doesn't see, or he turns a blind eye or I don't know, I don't know what his goal is, but to me that's a dangerous thing.

G3: EO (00:55:29):

And if it was Donald Trump, well he would have stopped. He has more [Inaudible 00:55:34].

G3: C (00:55:36):

He's braver.

G3: EO (00:55:48):

Trump yes he's a talker, he talks trash about people, but he doesn't get taken by other people.

Moderator (01:07:39):

Well, but the question is what does the Democratic Party mean to you.

G3: C (01:07:50):

C: In a nutshell, I'm going to tell you: weak.

Attitudes about Trump were mixed. One participant expressed not wanting Trump to be re-elected, while another praised him as a good businessman whose leadership had the economy on the right track. Yet, another participant noted his failed history as a businessman and suggested that Trump used the presidency to get rich and sell products.

G3: C (01:07:03):

I don't want Trump for president.

G3: EZ (01:15:14):

Look, I have an answer for that. When Trump was president, I knew he's a businessman, he's good at making businessmen, and at making a business person perfectly. He's great for our economy of the United States, but to lead and to represent, to take the vote for everyone in America, no. He's a person who was seen as being very racist.

G3: M (01:15:54):

María: I don't think he is smart for business because he went bankrupt seven times. And, so that's not good for business, he takes advantage of the situation and in my opinion it's not good for business. He starts looking for a way to get me out of the hole to get back to what he is, but he was never any good.

G3: M (01:16:38):

What I'm saying if they're looking for nothing more than the salary, he made more money selling, promoting his stuff than they had sold his hotels. His daughter's clothes, his whole family, going into the White House every one of them did have salaries. So, he can lose his salary as president. That doesn't mean anything. He's going to continue to make a lot of money with the others that he did.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

G3: EZ (01:17:12):

When he was president, obviously, he voted for stimulus and all that. That was good strategy to get us to vote for him again, but as far as I know when we were, when he was president, I mean, I don't look at we're suffering economically, we were there, we were in debt, but it didn't keep going up the debt and now that we have another president I'm seeing that it does keep going up the debt.

Participants expressed that under the Democratic Party leadership the economy has gotten worse. They feel that promises were made on the economy and immigration, but nothing is being done to address these issues. One participant suggested that the party makes promises to get votes and win elections, but then does not follow through, and view the Republican Party as being better on the economy.

G3: R (01:02:10):

Rogelio: Well, I don't believe in any party, simply because they don't accomplish what they promise.

Moderator (01:02:19):

Specifically, on what issue?

G3: R (01:02:21):

Rogelio: Well, on most of the things that they say they're going to do, they don't do.

Moderator (01:02:24):

But which one for you do you...?

G3: R (01:02:28):

Rogelio: To begin with, no, no, it doesn't improve anything, the economy is getting worse and worse.

G3: G (01:02:49):

Lupe: Well in English, immigration reform promises and waste of taxes.

Moderator (01:02:58):

Waste of taxes. OK. When you wrote immigration, what did you say immigration promises?

G3: G (01:03:03):

Immigration reform promises.

Moderator (01:03:05):

And they never accomplish?

G3: G (01:03:07):

No. I think it's to get votes.

Moderator (01:08:54):

OK. For you, the Republicans do a better job on the economy than the Democrats, for you

Several participants expressed that the parties only reach out to Latinos when they need votes to win elections.

Moderator (01:12:12):

OK. What do you talk about the two major political parties specifically welcoming Hispanics or not welcoming Hispanics?

G3: M (01:12:30):

María: Yes, when it's convenient for them.

[Laughter]

G3: J (01:12:34):

Juan Carlos: When they want votes.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

Concerns were expressed that the U.S. Government under democratic leadership would become dysfunctional and corrupt, like that of Venezuela. One believed that the U.S. is paying too much attention to other countries and not taking care of its citizens in America.

G3: O (01:03:22):

Octavia: We're going to be if we continue, as well as democrat. It's gonna be like Venezuela. [Inaudible 01:03:30] And the money is going [Inaudible 01:03:33].

Moderator (01:03:35):

You say like Venezuela, what do you mean, like what, the government or what?

G3: EO (01:03:39):

A lot of money [Inaudible 01:03:40].

G3: O (01:03:41):

OK, the government, the government, our dollar is not going to be useful anymore, it's going to be like Venezuela is not going to be useful, there's going to be a lot of [Inaudible 01:03:46] to the economy, everything [Inaudible 01:03:48]. War.

G3: EO (1:06:31):

Democracy, democracy. I also wrote everyone we take care of each other. Just like [Inaudible 01:06:39] it was said that we're sent to go to other countries instead of helping us. We are suffering, well we are... We are... We join the force, well. And yes, that's what's happening.

One participant believes that the Democratic Party is too liberal because of its emphasis on using inclusive language, specifically pronouns. They felt that non-gendered pronouns were not accurate.

G3: J (01:05:24):

Juan Carlos: For democrat I wrote that the first thing that comes to my mind is the party of opportunity and too liberal.

Moderator (01:05:36):

Too liberal. OK. And, when you say liberals, too liberal, what are you talking about?

G3: J (01:05:44):

For example, with everything that's going on today that people don't want to be given he, she pronouns, right? I think this party is too liberal to say "yes how you want to look at you is what we are going to tell you without taking into account that in this world if you are not a man, you are a woman".

One participant expressed a feeling that the political system corrupts everyone, Democrat and Republican. It's a way for them to get rich.

G3: EO (01:17:05):

I said everyone who goes into politics doesn't come out poor, they come out rich because they are corrupt.