

# UNLOCKING THE HISPANIC VOTE

## FOCUS GROUP REPORT

Arizona



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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 Arizona in four key topic areas related to U.S. politics and electoral participation: (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 Arizona state-wide survey (also conducted by Emerson College Polling Center) and is part of a larger study that will investigate these same key areas in a total of six U.S. states with significant Hispanic populations.

## **Methodology**

Three focus groups of participants of Hispanic ethnicity were conducted in Phoenix, Arizona in September 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 a recruiting service company, Athena Research, and a second recruiting service company, Portable Insights, 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 focus groups. The study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Emerson College.

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# KEY FINDINGS



## SECTION 1: POLICY ISSUES

- Rising housing costs were of concern. When asked about Inflation and rising costs, participants noted how interest rates relate to the cost of purchasing a home. They believe that the rising costs of homes keeps working people from purchasing a home and is leading to homelessness. It was also shared that rent costs were skyrocketing from one month to the other and they themselves worry about being able to make ends meet.'
- Participants believe crime in their community is on the rise and feel that the Coronavirus is at the root of the increase. Crimes included looting and robbing, as well as people defrauding the government of Covid funds. Related to crime, the group discussed seeing an increase in drug use, specifically fentanyl, which they see as a major issue in the US.
- Participants believe that racism has existed for generations and among all people of color. They shared personal stories of being treated differently because of them being Latino. Those experiences ranged from interacting with police, to going to the grocery store, to getting medical care. Social media was blamed for the increase in racism in the community. They feel that racist behaviors are moving from on-line posts to in person interactions. They believe racist behaviors are targeting all races, not just Hispanics.
- There was not a consensus regarding abortion. One participant who rated abortion as their top issue did so because they were concerned that other rights would be taken away. The Dobbs decision made them realize the importance of voting for representation at all levels of government, from local to national, viewing them all as equally important. Another participant shared that they were against abortions because they believe abortions are being used as a form of birth control, but felt exceptions should be made in the case of rape and incest.
- When asked about immigration, one participant born outside the US, shared that they believe that undocumented immigrants are taking advantage of the system, and putting stress on healthcare systems. Others commented that they felt the US should be more welcoming to immigrants, but also shared concerns for immigrants overrunning social programs like Social Security. One participant shared frustration that if he is against illegal immigration, then he feels he is labeled a racist. Other participants expressed support for immigrants coming into the US, and one participant became emotional when talking about detained children and believed the government was letting them down. Others expressed providing additional programs to help immigrants.

# KEY FINDINGS



## SECTION 2: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

- News aggregate services is a way in which participants noted they get their news. The services determine which are the top stories, and these are delivered daily. Content is a mix of stories and videos. Phones are the primary medium to access this content.
- Facebook is a primary source of news from many participants. They are fed news stories by media companies and they click on posts, self-selecting access to the content. Newspapers were only accessed through digital means. They do not pay for subscriptions to access newspaper content. Participants who did not use social media, access news sources directly through apps.
- When asked if they share or comment on political news on social media, many said they avoid it. They shared that commenting and posting about political content leads to people fighting or being blocked, and that such posts don't really persuade or move people's opinions. One participant, who is politically conservative, believes that social media is censored of conservative content, particularly on Facebook. Another participant shared that they are being censored by Facebook, and put into what they describe as "Facebook Jail" for expressing their opinion. They believe that social media monitors everything and censors people, denying them of their freedom of speech.
- Those who avoided the news shared that they did so because the content is primarily negative, which they don't like. It was shared that they use social media to access positive information about what is happening around them.
- Participants in the registered voter group discussed YouTube as a medium to check other news stories. They expressed trust in YouTube and Google as sources when looking for additional information on news topics. They use these as primary sources which then guides them to other sources of news. Members of the non-registered citizens group indicated that they did not use YouTube for news. Instead, it was used to access entertainment oriented content like recipes, music, and television programming.



# KEY FINDINGS



## SECTION 3: CIVIC ATTITUDES

- The participants believe that being a good citizen requires caring for others, being kind to others, obeying laws, not littering, and voting. There was discussion about how embodying the behavior of a good citizen could work to combat racism.
- One participant shared that they could be both proud of their cultural heritage and of being American. Several agreed with this sentiment. They did not feel it is a contradiction to embrace their Latino heritage and feel American patriotism.
- Participating in peaceful protests was viewed as a way to express political opinion and were considered as acts of freedom of speech. The group did not believe that violent protests are productive. One participant described protest as important to being a good citizen. They shared that if one doesn't stand up for injustice, then they are part of it.
- Voting in Arizona was perceived as easy, and there was a mix of methods that participants' cast their votes from in person to mail. There was distrust expressed about the voting system. One conservative participant shared that he preferred to vote in person. They shared concern that when voting by mail, their ballot may not be counted, and another participant suggested it would be thrown away.
- In the non-registered citizen group, when discussing why they were not registered to vote, participants expressed that they did not have confidence in the election process because their votes didn't matter. Things in their life did not change as a result of them voting. Several felt that the elections were predetermined, and the Trump victory was an example of that. Another participant felt that all politicians were liars, and she did not trust any of them. One participant shared that they didn't vote because expressing political beliefs, outside of voting, could cause confrontations that lead to physical harm. And one participant said they were just too lazy to register to vote.

# KEY FINDINGS



## SECTION 4: POLITICS

- While some in the group associated the Democratic party with supporting the working classes and issues such as abortion, climate change, health care, education, voting rights, and equal rights, the Party was also associated with rising gas prices and socialism.
- The Republican Party was associated with the White and wealthy, and big corporations. Republicans were also associated with Christianity and economic growth. The Republican Party was described as being angry, divisive, and unwilling to listen to opposing opinions. They believe that this happened at the same time that Trump took office. One participant noted that Trump represents the Republican Party.
- Participants shared that they are not satisfied with the two parties and that the parties were fighting rather than solving problems. They expressed frustration over the two-party system as not offering enough viable choices. In the non-registered citizen group, one participant shared that they don't vote because they don't know the difference between the Republican and Democratic parties. For another participant in that same group, there was general distrust for both parties because promises are broken and they feel that they are lied to.
- Participants in the Spanish language group viewed the budget cuts of public school funds as a form of racism against poor and disabled children. They see the vouchers as helping the children of the rich millionaires who never had their children in public schools to begin with.
- For several, the motivation to vote in 2020 was to vote against Trump because of his personality and racist rhetoric. One participant shared that she voted for Trump when he first ran, but then changed her vote in his re-election. She shared that they had lost friendships because of their vote for Trump. Another participant shared that they are voting in the next election simply to vote against Trump who claimed he had won Arizona even though he actually lost. They want to vote to prove that he really did lose the election.

A full-page background image of a desert landscape. The foreground is a flat, sandy plain. In the middle ground, there are several rolling sand dunes. The sky is a deep blue, and a small, faint crescent moon is visible in the upper center. The text "FULL REPORT" is overlaid in the center-right area.

# *FULL REPORT*



# ***FULL REPORT***

## INTRODUCTION

On September 12 and 13, 2022, a total of three (3) focus groups were conducted in Phoenix, Arizona 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 Arizona 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 Arizona focus groups were conducted at a professional focus group facility, Fieldwork Phoenix, located in Phoenix, Arizona.

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 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 each 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, September 12, 2022, 5:30 pm - Hispanic Registered Voters (conducted in English) - 8 participants
- **Group 2** - Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 5:30 pm - Hispanic Non-Registered Citizens (conducted in English) - 6 participants
- **Group 3** - Monday, September 12, 2022, 7:30 pm - Hispanic Registered Voters (conducted in Spanish) - 5 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, September 12, 2022, 5:30 pm – Hispanic Registered Voters (conducted in English)

- 4 female and 4 male
- Income range between under \$10k - \$100k+
- Education: 2 high school or less, 3 some college, 2 college graduate, 1 postgraduate
- One was from a Spanish only speaking household, 4 were from more English than Spanish speaking households, and 2 were from households that spoke only English.
- 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
Female	27	Puerto Rican	Independent	G1: C
Female	46	Mexican	Independent	G1: B
Female	50	Mexican	Republican	G1: E
Female	62	Mexican	Democrat	G1: L
Male	40	Mexican	Democrat	G1: A
Male	58	Mexican	Independent	G1: ME
Male	34	Ecuadorian	Independent	G1: ML
Male	60	Peruvian	Republican	G1: V



# *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, September 13, 2022, 5:30 pm - Hispanic Non-Registered Citizens (conducted in English)

- 3 female and 3 male
- Income range between less than \$10k - \$100k
- Education: 4 high school diploma or less, 1 some college, 1 college graduate
- Two participants were from a more Spanish than English speaking households, 1 was from more English than Spanish speaking household, 1 was from a household that spoke both languages equally, and 2 were from an English only speaking households
- All 6 participants were born in the United States

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Female	53	Mexican	Democrat	G2: V
Female	59	Other Hispanic	Democrat	G2: P
Male	33	Mexican	Democrat	G2: GA
Male	18	Mexican	Unsure	G2: U
Male	47	Mexican	Democrat	G2: GL
Female	37	Mexican	Other	G2: K

# ***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, September 12, 2022, 7:30 pm – Hispanic Registered Voters (conducted in Spanish)

- 5 females
- Income range between \$20k - \$100k +
- Education: 3 some college, 2 post graduate
- Four were from households that spoke both languages equally, and 1 was from a more English than Spanish speaking household
- Two participants were born outside the United States and 3 were born in the United States
- Note: 2 of the participants were teachers and 1 was a teaching assistant

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Female	52	Mexican	Republican	G3: CE
Female	45	Mexican	Republican	G3: K
Female	47	Mexican	Independent	G4: A
Female	58	Peruvian	Republican	G3: L
Male	68	Colombian	Democrat	G3: CS
Female	67	Colombian	Democrat	G3: I
Male	40	Mexican	Independent	G3: J

# *KEY FINDINGS*

## **SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES**

Rising housing costs were of concern. When asked about Inflation and rising costs, participants noted how interest rates relate to the cost of purchasing a home. They believe that the rising costs of homes keeps working people from purchasing a home and is leading to homelessness. It was also shared that rent costs were skyrocketing from one month to the other and they themselves worry about being able to make ends meet.'

Participants believe crime in their community is on the rise and feel that the Coronavirus is at the root of the increase. Crimes included looting and robbing, as well as people defrauding the government of Covid funds. Related to crime, the group discussed seeing an increase in drug use, specifically fentanyl, which they see as a major issue in the US.

Participants believe that racism has existed for generations and among all people of color. They shared personal stories of being treated differently because of them being Latino. Those experiences ranged from interacting with police, to going to the grocery store, to getting medical care. Social media was blamed for the increase in racism in the community. They feel that racist behaviors are moving from on-line posts to in person interactions. They believe racist behaviors are targeting all races, not just Hispanics.

There was not a consensus regarding abortion. One participant who rated abortion as their top issue did so because they were concerned that other rights would be taken away. The Dobbs decision made them realize the importance of voting for representation at all levels of government, from local to national, viewing them all as equally important. Another participant shared that they were against abortions because they believe abortions are being used as a form of birth control, but felt exceptions should be made in the case of rape and incest.

When asked about immigration, one participant born outside the US, shared that they believe that undocumented immigrants are taking advantage of the system, and putting stress on healthcare systems. Others commented that they felt the US should be more welcoming to immigrants, but also shared concerns for immigrants overrunning social programs like Social Security. One participant shared frustration that if he is against illegal immigration, then he feels he is labeled a racist. Other participants expressed support for immigrants coming into the US, and one participant became emotional when talking about detained children and believed the government was letting them down. Others expressed providing additional programs to help immigrants.



# *KEY FINDINGS*

## **SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA**

News aggregate services is a way in which participants noted they get their news. The services determine which are the top stories, and these are delivered daily. Content is a mix of stories and videos. Phones are the primary medium to access this content.

Facebook is a primary source of news from many participants. They are fed news stories by media companies and they click on posts, self-selecting access to the content. Newspapers were only accessed through digital means. They do not pay for subscriptions to access newspaper content. Participants who did not use social media, access news sources directly through apps.

When asked if they share or comment on political news on social media, many said they avoid it. They shared that commenting and posting about political content leads to people fighting or being blocked, and that such posts don't really persuade or move people's opinions. One participant, who is politically conservative, believes that social media is censored of conservative content, particularly on Facebook. Another participant shared that they are being censored by Facebook, and put into what they describe as "Facebook Jail" for expressing their opinion. They believe that social media monitors everything and censors people, denying them of their freedom of speech.

Those who avoided the news shared that they did so because the content is primarily negative, which they don't like. It was shared that they use social media to access positive information about what is happening around them.

Participants in the registered voter group discussed YouTube as a medium to check other news stories. They expressed trust in YouTube and Google as sources when looking for additional information on news topics. They use these as primary sources which then guides them to other sources of news. Members of the non-registered citizens group indicated that they did not use YouTube for news. Instead, it was used to access entertainment oriented content like recipes, music, and television programming.

# *KEY FINDINGS*

## **SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES**

The participants believe that being a good citizen requires caring for others, being kind to others, obeying laws, not littering, and voting. There was discussion about how embodying the behavior of a good citizen could work to combat racism.

One participant shared that they could be both proud of their cultural heritage and of being American. Several agreed with this sentiment. They did not feel it is a contradiction to embrace their Latino heritage and feel American patriotism.

Participating in peaceful protests was viewed as a way to express political opinion and were considered as acts of freedom of speech. The group did not believe that violent protests are productive. One participant described protest as important to being a good citizen. They shared that if one doesn't stand up for injustice, then they are part of it.

Voting in Arizona was perceived as easy, and there was a mix of methods that participants' cast their votes from in person to mail. There was distrust expressed about the voting system. One conservative participant shared that he preferred to vote in person. They shared concern that when voting by mail, their ballot may not be counted, and another participant suggested it would be thrown away.

In the non-registered citizen group, when discussing why they were not registered to vote, participants expressed that they did not have confidence in the election process because their votes didn't matter. Things in their life did not change as a result of them voting. Several felt that the elections were predetermined, and the Trump victory was an example of that. Another participant felt that all politicians were liars, and she did not trust any of them. One participant shared that they didn't vote because expressing political beliefs, outside of voting, could cause confrontations that lead to physical harm. And one participant said they were just too lazy to register to vote.

# *KEY FINDINGS*

## **SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS**

While some in the group associated the Democratic party with supporting the working classes and issues such as abortion, climate change, health care, education, voting rights, and equal rights, the Party was also associated with rising gas prices and socialism.

The Republican Party was associated with the White and wealthy, and big corporations. Republicans were also associated with Christianity and economic growth. The Republican Party was described as being angry, divisive, and unwilling to listen to opposing opinions. They believe that this happened at the same time that Trump took office. One participant noted that Trump represents the Republican Party.

Participants shared that they are not satisfied with the two parties and that the parties were fighting rather than solving problems. They expressed frustration over the two-party system as not offering enough viable choices. In the non-registered citizen group, one participant shared that they don't vote because they don't know the difference between the Republican and Democratic parties. For another participant in that same group, there was general distrust for both parties because promises are broken and they feel that they are lied to.

Participants in the Spanish language group viewed the budget cuts of public school funds as a form of racism against poor and disabled children. They see the vouchers as helping the children of the rich millionaires who never had their children in public schools to begin with.

For several, the motivation to vote in 2020 was to vote against Trump because of his personality and racist rhetoric. One participant shared that she voted for Trump when he first ran, but then changed her vote in his re-election. She shared that they had lost friendships because of their vote for Trump. Another participant shared that they are voting in the next election simply to vote against Trump who claimed he had won Arizona even though he actually lost. They want to vote to prove that he really did lose the election.



# ***FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS***

# ***FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1***

## **Key Findings for Group 1**

### **SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES**

Those who rated healthcare or education as their most important issue did so because of economic reasons. Regarding healthcare, one cited the rising costs of insurance and healthcare services and shared that they had personal experiences with large hospital bills. Education was discussed as an investment to combat inflation and economic downturns.

Rising housing costs were of concern. When asked about Inflation and rising costs, one participant discussed interest rates as it relates to the cost of purchasing a home. Another, who listed housing as their main concern, also noted that the rising costs of homes keeps working people from purchasing a home and is leading to homelessness. It was also shared that rent costs were skyrocketing from one month to the other and they themselves worry about being able to make ends meet.

Social media was blamed for the increase in racism in the community. One participant shared that racist behaviors are moving from on-line to in person, and they have witnessed an increase in racists behavior in public. They felt racist actions are targeting all races, not just Hispanics.

A participant who rated abortion as their top issue did so because they were concerned that other rights would be taken away. The Dobbs decision made them realize the importance of voting for representation at all levels of government, from local to national, viewing them all as equally important. Another participant shared that they were against abortions because they believe abortions are being used as a form of birth control, but felt exceptions should be made in the case of rape and incest.

When asked about immigration, one participant born outside the US, shared that they believe that undocumented immigrants are taking advantage of the system, and putting stress on healthcare systems. Others commented that they felt the US should be more welcoming to immigrants, but also shared concerns for immigrants overrunning social programs like Social Security. One participant shared frustration that if he is against illegal immigration, then he feels he is labeled a racist.

One participant suggested that the Coronavirus is at the root of the increase in crime that has been happening in the community, this included looting and robbing, as well as people defrauding the government of Covid funds. Associated with crime, the group discussed seeing an increase in drug use, specifically fentanyl, which they see as a major issue in the US.

# ***FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1***

## **SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA**

When describing the media, one participant, who describes themselves as conservative, said they did not watch television news because it is too liberal. They described all media as liberal and attempting to brainwash people, and suggested that colleges are also liberal and converting students. There was some agreement among other participants of the media being liberal.

YouTube was discussed as a medium to check other news stories. They expressed trust in YouTube and Google as sources when looking for additional information on news topics. They use these as primary sources which then guides them to other sources of news.

There was a brief discussion about conspiracy theories. Two participants shared that they were open-minded to this type of information and its validity. QAnon was mentioned as a source of information for one participant.

Facebook is a primary source of news from many participants. They are fed news stories by media companies and they click on posts, self-selecting access to the content. Newspapers were only accessed through digital means. They do not pay for subscriptions to access newspaper content.

International news and Public Radio were trusted news sources because they believed them to be unbiased. They romanticize and trust the news and newscasters from the past, unlike those of today that participants believe are opinionated and are charged with earning money.

A wide array of social media was used by the participants. Facebook and Twitter were mentioned specifically as sources of news. When asked if they share or comment on political news on social media, many in the group said they avoid it. They shared that commenting and posting about political content leads to people fighting or being blocked, and that such posts don't really persuade or move people's opinions.

One participant, who is politically conservative, believes that social media is censored of conservative content, particularly on Facebook. Another participant shared that they are being censored by Facebook, and put into what they describe as "Facebook Jail" for expressing their opinion. They believe that social media monitors everything and censors people, denying them of their freedom of speech.

The discussion about Spanish media focused on the audience rather than the media outlets. Several participants described Spanish language audiences, which seemed to serve as a proxy for Spanish-only speakers, as highly gullible and uneducated. Several gave examples of interacting with Spanish dominant speakers and their ability to easily manipulate them.

# ***FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1***

## **SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES**

The participants believe that being a good citizen requires caring for others, being kind to others, obeying laws, not littering, and voting. There was discussion about how embodying the behavior of a good citizen could work to combat racism.

One participant shared that they could be both proud of their cultural heritage and of being American. Several agreed with this sentiment. They did not feel it is a contradiction to embrace their Latino heritage and feel American patriotism.

Participating in peaceful protests was viewed as a way to express political opinion. The group did not believe that violent protests are productive.

Voting in Arizona was perceived as easy, and there was a mix of methods that participants' cast their votes from in person to mail. There was distrust expressed about the voting system. One conservative participant shared that he preferred to vote in person. They shared concern that when voting by mail, their ballot may not be counted, and another participant suggested it would be thrown away.



# ***FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1***

## **SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS**

When asked about what motivated them to vote in 2020, one participant said a marijuana tax law proposal. The group did not mention Trump or Biden until probed. They shared that their motivation was to vote against Trump because of his personality and racist rhetoric. One participant felt that voting can bring about change and is better than complaining.

While some in the group associated the Democratic party with supporting the working classes and issues such as abortion, climate change, voting rights, and equal rights, the Party was also associated with rising gas prices and socialism.

When asked what about the Democratic Party makes them represent socialism, healthcare was not mentioned. Instead, wages and minimum wage were discussed, as was the idea of treating all people the same.

The Republican Party was associated with the White and wealthy, and big corporations. Republicans were also associated with Christianity and economic growth. The Republican Party was described as being angry, divisive, and unwilling to listen to opposing opinions. They believe that this happened at the same time that Trump took office. One participant noted that Trump represents the Republican Party.

Participants shared that they are not satisfied with the two parties and that the parties were fighting rather than solving problems. They expressed frustration over the two-party system as not offering enough viable choices.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Those who rated healthcare or education as their most important issue did so because of economic reasons. Regarding healthcare, one cited the rising costs of insurance and healthcare services and shared that they had personal experiences with large hospital bills. Education was discussed as an investment to combat inflation and economic downturns.

G1: A (00:12:47): Just the affording healthcare is just such a big deal. At least to say it doesn't affect me as much because of my job, but I see so many family members where it does, especially when they have kids and they don't know how much things are going to cost and some things are covered, some aren't. So besides being expensive, it's really confusing and they don't make it easier.

G1: A (00:13:12): The health insurance company or the marketplace picking out something. It's never really that clear. And it doesn't seem until it's already happened that you realize they owe all this much. A lot of times there are mistakes, even mine. So it's like fighting back and forth with the insurance company, trying to get things resolved. And a lot of times it's so hard to understand that. I think a lot of things fall through cracks and people end up paying more or going into debt because of it.

G1: ML (00:13:45): Almost exactly what he said. It's crazy. But yeah, it's a gray area. And then also personally, unfortunately, because of that alcohol thing, I've injured myself multiple times and I hurt my knee, Vegas actually at EDC and I couldn't feel my knee. And then the bill for that was like \$4,000. And then all they did was drain stuff out of my knee. I'm still paying that and it's just never known. They just send you a bill. It's not even really political for me. You just don't know along the lines of what he was saying. And it affects me financially, because I'm not rich, unfortunately.

Moderator (00:14:35): Right. So G1: ME, you said education and you mentioned a little bit because it leads to inflation. Can you explain what you mean by that?

G1: ME (00:14:43): It's our future. If you were to invest more into education, as much as you would to other programs, for example, paying better teachers. Okay? I'll give you an example. Five years ago, I was talking to my insurance agent and went in there to pay an insurance bill. And he told me that there are 18 year olds that don't know how to sign their name. And I'm like, "What? What are you talking about?" He goes, "They don't know how to sign their signature." And I'm like, "What are you talking about?" And he said that they don't teach that anymore in school because they have computers. So you don't need to do that. Your signature on file. I'm like, "That is so stupid."

Rent.

G1: ME (00:15:42): It leads to inflation because if you think about it, if we educate more people in this country and they start out as kids, they can get ideas as they get older on how to deal with inflation. You're talking about our future. OK. And I'm not knocking the young generation. I think they're actually pretty smart if they just give it a try. And I got really obnoxious and smart aleck with a lady, because I was doing the ASU graduation through the job I was working for. And this lady was like, "My daughter graduated, my daughter graduated." I said, "Now, good." I said, "Now you can tell her to move out and get a job." And she's like...

Moderator (00:16:32): That's becoming...

G1: ME (00:16:34): But it's like now they're using school as an excuse to stay at home. School's important. School's great. But you know what gets your act together. You went to school for a reason.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G1: L (00:22:40): I think it's a trickle down effect. Number one. And I don't think it's related specifically to an administration, because the president or whatever can only do what the Congress and the Senate do. But not only that though, I think we need to take a really good look at these companies, these CEOs that are making money. We could get them at lower prices. We would have more disposable income and lower prices. We would have more disposable income to regenerate the economy and maybe it wouldn't be as bad as it is. And so I think it just has a trickle down effect on the economy. People may have a little bit more disposable income, whether there... could even help towards racism. You know what I mean? Like oh, just because you're this color, you have more money or this. Kind of maybe level the playing field. You might be able to afford your medicines for your healthcare. I think in inflation and rising costs, that's a big balloon of everything. Rent, health, education, all of it. And so I just think if we could control some of that from wherever, then people would have disposable income and then the economy could get better and people might not be as angry. That might help some of the racism. That might help some of... You know what I mean? So that's just my personal thought.

Rising housing costs were of concern. When asked about Inflation and rising costs, one participant discussed interest rates as it relates to the cost of purchasing a home. Another, who listed housing as their main concern, also noted that the rising costs of homes keeps working people from purchasing a home and is leading to homelessness. It was also shared that rent costs were skyrocketing from one month to the other and they themselves worry about being able to make ends meet.

Moderator (00:16:52): G1: V, you said inflation and rising costs. What is it that's concerning you and why is that so important to you right now?

G1: V (00:17:02): I saw the coming, turned to the worse with this current administration. When I bought my retirement house, after four years, I paid two and a quarter percent. My daughter just bought her first house and she paid almost 5% interest. Two years ago, I decided to retire. I said, "I'm done working." Worked for 30 years. So I retired. I was watching my future. What do you say that? Money, I was going to use my retirement account and it was not doing so well. So luckily, I was offered another job, so I went back to work. But that's why it worries me. The inflation and rising cost. I see that-

Moderator (00:19:56): G1: E, you said housing costs. Why is that so important to you right now? Or what are you seeing?

G1: E (00:20:01): The reason why I chose housing costs, it's because the average person right now can't afford to live in this market right now. That's ridiculously high. The market for renters right now. If you're an owner, well you're good... You have your own place. You're paying a mortgage. It's not that bad, but for the average renter, they can't afford to live right now. I've seen so many people posting constantly about how they're facing homelessness. We already have a homeless issue. That's in every state you could possibly think of. So that's already an issue statewide across the nation. But here in Arizona, particularly, if you looked at the homeless population from back a couple of years ago, it was in the thousands, right now it's over 2000 people.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

That's how bad it is because of the housing cost. People can't afford to survive on the way that it's how high, which comes to inflation. It's ridiculous that renters and landlords are pretty much like, "Okay, we have to like..." For example, me personally. A perfect example prior to COVID, my two bedroom, two bath condo, I was paying 1300. Right as soon as the market hit, where everybody was like... I live in Tempe. So that was a high population to rent because of ASU and whatnot. Literally, within the next month, by the time I was going to renew my lease, my landlord's, "I have to move my rent up to what the market values at right now." Bam, instantly 400 bucks up.

G1: ML (21:24): What?

G1: E (21:25): Yep. So my rent went from 1300 to 1700.

Moderator (21:29): No notice, right?

G1: E (00:21:30): No notice. It's like either you want to rent at the value that it's at right now, or you can go rent somewhere else. But as hard as it is to find a place right now, because of all these people moving here from all these other states, I'm not in a position where I can just say, "Okay, I'm just going to change my kids' school and just move out and spend another five grand to give a security deposit. First month's rent, all kinds of fees." I'm like, "I'm stuck. I'm going to have to obviously renew my lease and just fix it... I'm pretty much going to have to pay the-"

G1: ML (00:22:00): Or just be homeless.

G1: E (00:22:01): Correct. Or be homeless. I have two young daughters. Obviously cannot be homeless. If it's by myself, I told my single friends, "If it was just for me and I'm renting a room, cool, I could crash wherever. I could crash on your couch and pay you 600 bucks a month. I don't care." But I have two young daughters that I have to look after. I can't just move them in with anybody or anywhere. That's the hard part. So I got stuck and a lot of people did. I'm not the only one because I've talked to several people that are all facing... A lot of them, like I said, ended up homeless right now. A lot of them are looking into those programs to try to just help catch up on the rents because they're facing homelessness from how bad the issue is.

Social media was blamed for the increase in racism in the community. One participant shared that racist behaviors are moving from on-line to in person, and they have witnessed an increase in racists behavior in public. They felt racist actions are targeting all races, not just Hispanics.

G1: C (00:18:03): No, racism. I feel like it's been an ongoing issue for many centuries. No matter what race you are, someone's affected by it. And it's not getting better because... I'm mixed with Puerto Rican and Black and my family's all different skin color. So I personally see a difference. Say I go to Food City, for example, there's more Hispanic people. They think I'm like... I can speak Spanish and they're nicer to me. But when my sister looks African American, they get bad. Worst service: Ve because of their skin color.

Moderator (00:18:47): Okay. And do you think that's something that's been throughout time or is this something recently?

G1: C (00:18:51): I feel like people are getting more comfortable being racist out in public.

Moderator (00:19:00): What's causing that do you think?

G1: ML (00:19:02): Social media.



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### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G1: C (00:19:03): Yes, exactly. On social media, people are more open to talk about how they feel because they're not in front of that person. So I feel like people can be more racist. Racism can be thrown out there like it's nothing. So I feel like that's an ongoing thing. And people who really need to work on treating people the way you want to be treated. No one's better than anyone. We bleed the same. We literally breathe the same air. We bleed. We do the same stuff. We're just different races and different skin colors. I just don't get that.

A participant who rated abortion as their top issue did so because they were concerned that other rights would be taken away. The Dobbs decision made them realize the importance of voting for representation at all levels of government, from local to national, viewing them all as equally important. Another participant shared that they were against abortions because they believe abortions are being used as a form of birth control, but felt exceptions should be made in the case of rape and incest.

G1: B (00:24:19): The reason why I picked that was it was really eye-opener. I mean who thought after all this time they would overturn it? We didn't get to vote on it. It just goes to show that from these judges from the Supreme Court that just who happens to retire or die or whatever and who happens to be in. So it makes you think you got to play chess, not checkers on who you put into offices and starting from your local all the way up, Senators, presidents. It just made me think, "What else can they just flip the switch on?" And that really... I mean obviously it was just something that I never thought would... It's been different... Talking points from the second it was in law, it's been a talking point for everybody. And no one's ever, "You're not going to undo this. You're not going to undo voting for women, you're not going to... Gay rights." All that stuff can all just... So it makes you think really start looking into who you're going to vote for and from the bottom up.

G1: E (01:21:15): Personally me, I disagree with abortions. And I believe the way that I look at it is that we're not in the 18th century, we're in the year 2000 and this time and era, everybody should know about all the different methods of birth control, what there is. So, there's no reason in this age anymore to be slaughtering babies. I believe had women actually used abortions for what it was meant to be in only an incest or rape cases, which is a very small percentage. It would've never gotten to the point where somebody had to choose for them.

Moderator (01:21:48): So, you're personally in favor of keeping abortion legal if in the case -

G1: E (01:21:54): It was an event of incest or rape, which is a very small percentage. But, being that women were using it as a birth control method.

When asked about immigration, one participant born outside the US, shared that they believe that undocumented immigrants are taking advantage of the system, and putting stress on healthcare systems. Others commented that they felt the US should be more welcoming to immigrants, but also shared concerns for immigrants overrunning social programs like Social Security. One participant shared frustration that if he is against illegal immigration, then he feels he is labeled a racist.

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### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G1: V (00:25:46): Well, I see how people take advantage of the system. When I came to this country, I was a student. I graduated and I went to the corporate channels to become... I was offered a green card. Then the war with Iraq started and because of my job, I was offered citizenship, because I was working on the Patriot program. And I became good friends with the guy that does landscaping in my house. ... then he tells me, "Can you help my son?" My landscaping guy is illegal. His son was born here. And then he has kids. He cannot support his kid but he has four kids and then I have to take him, I help him. I took him to the doctor. And because the kids spend so much time laying down, his head became flat. So the solution was to put on a helmet that forms the brain... The head again. So I was asking, "Who pays for that?" He says, "I don't pay a penny." And I saw the bill was like \$17,000 for the helmet. And who pays that? Taxpayers. So we need to control the borders so people don't come over here and take advantage of the system.

G1: C (00:27:13): Yeah. I feel like everyone has the right to come here but to be part of the United States, you have to go through it. Even though people that are born here, we don't have to do that but if you want to be a citizen, you have to do what you need to do to be part of the United States. No one's forcing my... Not like all of Mexico, you can't come here. You can, it's the United States. That's why it's called that. Because they want a whole bunch of different races and stuff to build here. Just take the correct steps.

G1: L (00:27:51): And there again, I think immigration is all encompassing. I don't have a problem with the immigration people coming over, I do, as G1: V said, have a problem. I remember when I was unemployed and I put in social security or whatever and I couldn't get food stamps, couldn't get access because I had money in a 401k that I was not able to get. So I think that there are programs that need to be more restrictive on who... I have no problem if you come over here and you're working your hot tail off or whatever to support, I just feel like for those of us that are citizens that can't get access to some of those programs, I think some of the regulations or the way they enforce them need to be strengthened. So I think some people will, when you say immigration, it's like oh they're taking advan- That's just a part of the immigration problem. People like drug dealers and... When they say immigration, I think they lump everything together. I think it needs to be like, what is it about immigration? Do you have a problem with this or what? Does that make sense? Is that what I think people say immigration. It's like everybody's bad. It's not. It's the separate things that are under the umbrella of immigration, I feel.

G1: B (00:29:06): Yeah. And people automatically think border, Mexico, no-

G1: L (00:29:09): Drug dealers. Yeah.

G1: B (00:29:10): You have people coming in from other countries with the anchor... My sister lived next to a house where they busted Asian women. All of a sudden, a bunch of pregnant Asian women were coming. They come and they have about 15, 20 of them in a house and they're coming and having the same. So I know with immigration that drives me crazy that people just automatically think south of the border because they're coming in from all over the place.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G1: A (00:29:39): Yeah, for me, I think the big thing is that the process needs to be revamped because right now it's just so there's just taste like, oh immigration's bad. And I don't think it is. But I think people need an avenue to go about it the right way because I think that's a lot of the reason why people skip out on the process. Because all the paperwork it's confusing. Maybe somebody's not guiding them through the paperwork and stuff. So if they made that easier, I think it would put a lot of the legal immigration, it would alleviate a lot of that. I just think that the whole program needs to be revamped. I'm not an expert at it, so I don't know how to do it, but I think that's where it needs to start. And rather than just blaming everyone else and like she said, immigration, just a giant umbrella statement, which it's not just one single thing.

G1: ML (00:30:37): I just feel like you can't trust the media at all anymore, because it's all narrative-based. I'm not even conservative myself, I'm actually more libertarian. But it's all pushing an agenda. So they like to put out there that if you think illegal immigration is wrong then you're racist, that's what they put out there. But it's not true. It's just they put that blanket statement on Facebook on... because all liberals...

One participant suggested that the Coronavirus is at the root of the increase in crime that has been happening in the community, this included looting and robbing, as well as people defrauding the government of Covid funds. Associated with crime, the group discussed seeing an increase in drug use, specifically fentanyl, which they see as a major issue in the US.

G1: B (00:31:49): I just feel like with everything going on, I think the Coronavirus kind of let everything kind of be a free for all and I think they need to reel it back in.

Moderator (00:32:00): What do you mean free for all? What-

G1: B (00:32:07): There was not enough responding. People were looting, people are robbing, people are doing all kinds of different things that I feel like-

Moderator (00:32:13): And G1: ME, you put a 10 also.

G1: ME (00:32:18): I agree with G1: B, but it's not just looting, fraud.

Moderator (00:32:32): What kind of drugs are they?

G1: ME (00:32:33): Fentanyl. Meth. Absolutely.

G1: E (00:32:36): Fentanyl, meth. All of them.

G1: ME (00:32:39): Well, tar-heroin is coming back.

G1: E (00:32:41): Correct. There's a big issue here in Arizona.

G1: ME (00:32:46): No, Fentanyl.

G1: E (00:32:46): The zombies you see walking around, half of them are addicted to stuff and it's like a rolling effect.

G1: ME (00:32:53): Well it's like you said, I mean I moved up to Phoenix in 2005, okay? We had zombies back then. I call them mop heads. But anyways, we had them. But now-

G1: E (00:33:09): It's worse.

G1: ME (00:33:10): ... you can't walk around the corner of a street without running into them. So get drugs, it's a major issue in this country.

G1: ML (00:33:20): Fentanyl specifically, because I actually live with two women recently and she would say that I can not smoke, I get sick. And she'd do it every day. And I should've seen it as a red flag, but they ended up going crazy on me and I had to move out, so yeah.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

When describing the media, one participant, who describes themselves as conservative, said they did not watch television news because it is too liberal. They described all media as liberal and attempting to brainwash people, and suggested that colleges are also liberal and converting students. There was some agreement among other participants of the media being liberal.

G1: V (00:34:45): Well the media has become very liberal. Very liberal. So they try to guide people, treated like sheep, so they broadcasted ideas and then in a way brainwash the people with their ideas. So liberal media, you get liberal ideas.

Moderator (00:35:06): Okay, so but are you suggesting that that's on TV and that's why you-

G1: V (00:35:14): ABC, CBS, especially CNN.

G1: ML (00:35:14): They're all liberal.

G1: L (00:35:14): Yeah, want you to be distracted.

G1: V (00:35:13): MSNBC. Even colleges.

G1: L (00:35:19): Even on the radio stations too.

G1: V (00:35:20): My son graduated from U of A and when he went to U of A, he went on to be a nice, considerate boy. Now he has some liberal ideas. We have our arguments, but I think he's changed.

G1: L (00:33:59): I do TV, but I do different news stations. I do CNN, MSNBC. I'll do Fox because I know some of them are for this administration or that person or whatever. But when I find something personally that I feel like, okay, is that right or wrong or what? Then I do Google search different places to try to find out, okay, are more responses this way than I would believe that this is more true? So I try to find out on my own if it's something of importance to me. But I go to various different news-

YouTube was discussed as a medium to check other news stories. They expressed trust in YouTube and Google as sources when looking for additional information on news topics. They use these as primary sources which then guides them to other sources of news.

G1: C (00:36:33): On Google. I just research on my own and sometimes you know how on YouTube and stuff, they have scientists or people in the health field talking about certain topics. I look at it on YouTube, stuff like that. Instead of something being regulated.

Moderator (00:36:51): Now are you searching YouTube or are you following, somebody sends you something from YouTube. How do you end up on YouTube? Or you go there yourself?

G1: C (00:36:58): Yeah, when I want to know a topic, I just search it and if a YouTube video comes up, I'll look at it.

G1: A (00:39:18): See, I don't really have a main source. I'm sort of like G1: L over here. I do Google. Usually if I go to Google, there's the news ones, there's top articles or something like that. And I don't really pay that much attention initially where they're from. And I kind of just kind of browse them and then if something seems really interesting or pressing, then I'll look up that thing separately. And then from there, just look at a bunch of different sources. And they could be those online newspapers and all these things, but specifically, I'm not going to abc.com or cnn.com, I just start with Google and then it spans from there.



## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

Moderator (00:39:56): And is Google feeding you the news? You're getting Google News? Or do you actually go into Google and type something up? Are you getting it Google News or-

G1: A (00:40:03): Yeah, it's like Google News. It has top stories, things like that.

Moderator (00:40:08): So that's how you're getting that. What about you, G1: E? What's your main source of news?

G1: E (00:40:13): I don't really have a main source either. I kind of do what G1: L does. If something is of interest or I'm kind of curious to find out a little bit more, I usually Google a certain topic and then certain other pages will pop up, of course, which is Google normally will show you the most typed in whatever, that's what it'll pop up, whatever the most people type up, okay that's what'll pop up. But I will look further into that if okay, a specific news company said this is what's going on or whatever, and I don't agree with it or believe it, I'll look into other sources pretty much to see... If everybody comes to one conclusion, then I'll be like, "Okay, then I'll agree with it." But if I read other sources where they're kind of conflicting, then I'm kind of like... then I look further into it with other different sources, not just Google.

G1: SN (00:34:58):

They watch you, too. Yeah. Huh.

There was a brief discussion about conspiracy theories. Two participants shared that they were open-minded to this type of information and its validity. QAnon was mentioned as a source of information for one participant.

G1: C (00:35:55): I usually look online, read articles and stuff on the topic and sometimes I'm into theories too. What's it called?

G1: ML (00:36:07): Conspiracy?

G1: C (00:36:08): Conspiracy theories. So I am thinking about all of this other stuff. I don't really look at the news because that's-They basically want you to be distracted on what's really happening. So I look at it sometimes, the news outlines, it's like, "That doesn't make sense."

G1: C (00:36:33): On Google. I just research on my own and sometimes you know how on YouTube and stuff, they have scientists or people in the health field talking about certain topics. I look at it on YouTube, stuff like that. Instead of something being regulated.

G1: V (00:38:31): Lots of blogs. My sisters forced me to read these blogs from a guy named Q. He's very political.

Facebook is a primary source of news from many participants. They are fed news stories by media companies and they click on posts, self-selecting access to the content. Newspapers were only accessed through digital means. They do not pay for subscriptions to access newspaper content.

G1: L (00:37:27): It'll come up on Facebook, but then I'll go to the actual website and read the article. So I don't know. Do they still deliver newspapers back in the day? I remember going, when I used to work, they used to put it out there and you'd read it with your coffee, but... Like The New York Times, you know what I mean?

Moderator (00:37:48): But do you have to pay for that access or you get it free or you how do you-

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

G1: L (00:37:51): Not if you're looking... If you're going on Google and you're hitting a specific article, it'll say this article was in the New York Times and then you get the snippet from the New York Times. You know what I mean? So you don't get the whole paper, you would just click on that. Let's just say it's Queen G1: E, you'd click on it and then it would be the article from the New York Times and then you might get other articles from different papers.

G1: B (00:38:13): It's like they give you one and then they'll say, "Okay, then you have to subscribe." Online. You can't even get that online newspaper for free anymore.

G1: L (00:38:21): If you want the whole thing, you know what I mean? But if you just want a little snippet, you know what I mean? I'm not going to pay to watch the stock exchange.

Moderator (00:37:07): Does anybody read the newspaper, the local newspaper or use the newspaper as a source of news? No?

G1: L (00:37:13): Online.

Moderator (00:37:14): Okay. So you do look at it online?

G1: L (00:37:18): Yes, I do. And various newspaper articles that come out, yeah, if it's on Facebook.

Moderator (00:37:25): Now, do you go to their... Oh it's on Facebook.

G1: L (00:37:27): It'll come up on Facebook, but then I'll go to the actual website and read the article. So I don't know. Do they still deliver newspapers back in the day? I remember going, when I used to work, they used to put it out there and you'd read it with your coffee, but... Like The New York Times, you know what I mean?

International news and Public Radio were trusted news sources because they believed them to be unbiased. They romanticize and trust the news and newscasters from the past, unlike those of today that participants believe are opinionated and are charged with earning money.

Moderator (00:42:40): You've talked about the BBC a couple of times and G1: V mentioned it too. What is it about the BBC that makes it so trustworthy to you?

G1: ME (00:42:45): I think they go the distance.

Moderator (00:42:49): What does that mean, they go to the distance?

G1: ME (00:42:51): They want to find out the truth. Like NPR, National Public Radio, they don't pull any punches. But at the same time, okay, is this accurate? And that's where I have found, over the years, that other people that I have talked to about the BBC have said the same thing. Yeah. What they do is they dig and they find out, okay, is this the truth or is this hearsay? Is this made up? I think most of the news in this country, they're just doing it for a salary. I mean, have you seen these salaries from these people? They're making a lot of money. Do you really believe in what you're saying or are you just saying it just to get paid a whole bunch of money? It's not like when I was growing up with Walter Cronkite, Ted Koppel, okay? Those were newscasters. Ted Koppel was interviewed and he talked about what he did.

Moderator (00:43:57): How did it change or what changed?

G1: ML (00:44:00): I actually met Walter Cronkite.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

G1: ME (00:44:02): Marketing. It has become more of an entertainment now. What's that guy's name? Tucker Carlson? He was on YouTube and he admitted, "I don't believe 70% of the stuff that I spew out, but the people out there believe me." So whatever it takes to get the people riled up, I don't believe in any of that. 70% of it. So what I'm saying is it's marketing, you're getting paid, okay? You're not living in that area where you just talked about, you're living in some other area and you're getting paid. So to me, BBC will always be, and then NPR.

Moderator (00:44:46): Let's talk a little bit... I'm sorry, go ahead, G1: B.

G1: B (00:44:48): Oh, I was just going to say, there's no reporters and there's no journalists anymore. They get what they're supposed to read to us. So someone out there wrote it and it just gets trickled down into every-

Moderator (00:45:02): things out there writing it, do you know? I mean, who's responsible for-

G1: B (00:45:04): I was ever in charge of this. The media.

G1: L (00:45:08): Sponsors, whoever, whatever agenda. Locally, I think there's an agenda. Your news is local. I think when he was saying BBC or whatever, that-

G1: B (00:45:18): The neutral.

G1: L (00:45:19): It's more neutral. They don't really have an agenda for what's going on here. And I think that... Just to G1: ME's point is, yeah, Walter Cronkite and stuff, that was all good, but now there's social media, so we don't know really what was going on. Really were we getting the truth? Now there's social media so you can research some of it and so now it's out in the open. But I think some of these things have been going on long before we even realized that they might be going on. We just have the media now kind of open... I don't know, open your eyes, but-

A wide array of social media was used by the participants. Facebook and Twitter were mentioned specifically as sources of news. When asked if they share or comment on political news on social media, many in the group said they avoid it. They shared that commenting and posting about political content leads to people fighting or being blocked, and that such posts don't really persuade or move people's opinions.

Moderator (00:45:53): Well, let's talk about social media for a little bit. Which social media do you all use?

G1: ME (00:45:59): I use all of them,

Moderator (00:45:59): What are all of them?

G1: ME (00:46:02): Facebook, Snapchat. Well, I know I-

G1: ML (00:46:00): Facebook, Snapchat, well I know I do but, we don't talk about that.

G1: L (00:46:07): TikTok, Instagram, Twitter.

G1: ML (00:46:08): I don't use Twitter, but that's all I don't use.

Moderator (00:46:09): A, what do you use?

G1: A (00:46:10): Facebook, I mean for news or just?

Moderator (00:46:11): Yeah, for news. For news. Yeah.

G1: ML (00:46:11): Oh, for news.

G1: A (00:46:15): Oh, for news. I guess I get alerts and stuff on Twitter and on, I see... I don't really seek it out on Facebook, but people post stuff where there's like the ads for local, I don't know, local news, things like that.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

Moderator (00:46:28): Do you ever comment on some of the political stuff or share?

G1: A (00:46:32): No. No. Oh, no. No.

Moderator (00:46:32): Why do you say that?

G1: A (00:46:36): I stay out of that, because there's no point. I'm not going to put it and change someone's mind in two seconds. All I meant is to start a fight.

G1: ML (00:46:43): People DM me at me all the time on Instagram and then they'll be like, "F you, F this," and I'll be like, "You have a great day."

G1: E (00:46:49): I have people block me all the time.

G1: ML (00:46:49): Yeah and then for no reason. Like all I said is like, "Oh, I was glad to see Leon Edwards win," it's a UFC Fighter. And then somebody messaged me, this guy who's yelling at me like, "Fuck you." Oh sorry, "F you and you're ugly." And I was like, "All right, thank you."

Moderator (00:47:35):

Well, I want to talk more about news consumption. So where are you getting your news? So Brandy when you go to social media for news, are you getting any news from social media?

G1: B (00:47:45): Yeah. Well yeah, I'll go and see what's trending. They'll have the-

Moderator (00:47:49): On Twitter?

G1: B (00:47:50): On Yahoo or on Twitter.

Moderator (00:47:51): Oh Yahoo, okay.

G1: B (00:47:53): Yeah. So online to read. But Twitter will usually see what's trending. And then TikTok, people's opinions, people talking about things. I mean that's all just basically peer news, but actual news news-

One participant, who is politically conservative, believes that social media is censored of conservative content, particularly on Facebook. Another participant shared that they are being censored by Facebook, and put into what they describe as "Facebook Jail" for expressing their opinion. They believe that social media monitors everything and censors people, denying them of their freedom of speech.

Moderator (00:48:44): G1: V, do you get involved in social media? Do you use social media at all?

G1: V (00:48:47): I don't do it for the news, because it's very much controlled.

Moderator (00:48:52): Mm-hmm.

G1: V (00:48:53): And I did a little experiment. There was a video that the boy was going to climb to ...and he tripped twice. Right? I posted it to my friends and I said, "I guess, April doesn't want him to go inside." Next day it was removed by Facebook. And then tonight I'm watching. As soon as I got home, we bought the movie Hunter My Son.

Moderator (00:49:18): Mm-hmm.

G1: V (00:49:19): And I send my friends the trailer. Boom, it was removed. So I just use it for sports to keep in touch with my friends. The last place I get my news, unless it's from my friends.

G1: E (00:49:38): I do not have every social media. I have Instagram, I have Snapchat, I have TikTok, I have Facebook, I have Nextdoor where I get to see what my neighbors are talking about and whatnot. A whole in one. But now do I believe that, I don't believe. I like doing my own homework and my own research, before I believe anything. I'm not going to believe what someone says just because they're saying it. Everybody has their opinion. I've been blocked-



## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

for example, Facebook, so many times so I get put on Facebook jail, because the moment I state my opinion and if somebody disagrees with it, you'll have all the cry babies right away. So I'll get blocked. I'm like, "Cool, whatever. Facebook jail. Okay, cool." Go to another outlet.

G1: E (00:50:24): They constantly block you. They disagree with anything you've got to say-

G1: E (00:50:29): There is no freedom of speech anymore. You can't monitor everything. The moment you say something that they disagree with. It's blocked, deleted-

The discussion about Spanish media focused on the audience rather than the media outlets. Several participants described Spanish language audiences, which seemed to serve as a proxy for Spanish-only speakers, as highly gullible and uneducated. Several gave examples of interacting with Spanish dominant speakers and their ability to easily manipulate them.

G1: V (00:53:24): Well one of the most popular newscasters here in the States is a guy named Ramos. Right, he foreign. I mean, he has an agenda. He has an agenda now. Now, he had it against Trump. Now he has it against the president of El Salvador. He's cleaning Salvador he has, last week he called him a dictator, he's cleaning El Salvador. He has a specific agenda. Once I was going to Orlando with our family and I sat next to a guy that worked with him. Salvador Bastellamos and I told him I don't watch Univision because Ramos is garbage. And then we talked for a while and I shared my opinion with him. Why I think he's a bad reporter. He has an agenda. And actually the guy agreed with me and 4 month later he was let go from Univision. So I think it's the worst-

Moderator (00:54:26): So you think the Spanish language has an agenda just like the English language?

G1: V (00:54:29): Yes, but most, I mean, I don't want to sound rude too, but most of Hispanic population in the States is uneducated. So they're very easy to persuade, to guide. Look, my landscaping guy, the first he tells me, "Oh, Biden becomes the president, I become a citizen." And not only him, all his family believe the same thing.

Moderator (00:54:55): And why are y'all laughing?

G1: E (00:54:57): I'm saying that personally because, I worked in the medical field for over 20 years and from personal experience, if I told a patient I need you to, this is whatever, anything I would tell them, they would believe it. And sometimes even joking around, I'd be like... And then I'd be like, "No, do you really think that that's how we work here?" They'd be like, "Oh I thought that..." I'm like, "No." That's why I'm saying from my personal opinion, working in a medical office, the majority, I'd say probably 80% of our patients were Hispanic. And they were very easy, anything you'd tell them, they believe.

(00:55:29): And I'm just like, I would sometimes question that and would tell these patients, "Do you guys not advocate for yourselves when you're like, 'Oh the doctor said I have to take this medication.'" And I'm like, "Okay. Then they need to be like..." "But I haven't, I've been taking that, I haven't been felt," Like, "Have you said anything?" "Oh no, I won't say nothing 'cause he's a doctor," and I'm like, "You need to advocate for your own body. You need to be an advocate and speak up. If this is something that you don't agree with, speak up to him and say so."

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

The participants believe that being a good citizen requires caring for others, being kind to others, obeying laws, not littering, and voting. There was discussion about how embodying the behavior of a good citizen could work to combat racism.

G1: E (00:56:48): Contribute to society, be a member of society. Contribute towards taxes, towards paying things, towards being a good neighbor, towards, you know.

Moderator (00:56:58): G1: B, what do you think? What does it mean to be a good citizen?

G1: B (00:57:01): Same. I feel like, love our country, but I know that it's not perfect. But you're here. Appreciate what you do have here and if the things that you don't like, make the change. Vote, find a way to make a change or vote for the right people who you know who can do that. But, same thing, it's pride, pride of country, pride of yourself, pride of your neighborhood, your state and how to keep everybody... Faith and you know-

G1: V (00:57:41): Even take care. Take care of where you live. I like soccer a lot and I like sports. I go see a Cardinal's game and we usually stay till the end, and when we leave we see the parking lot. We left our car in the parking lot, it's kind of clean. I went to see the game between Honduras and Mexico. We stayed till the end. And when I left, the parking lot was just, it's like they didn't put trash cans. Every stall there was bags of food, beer cans. So it tells you that there is a lack of respect to this country. To their values. Keep those things going. It's everywhere you go. I go outside the food scene, it has a parking lot. It's a shame to be there. You go outside, zones or bashes, different things.

G1: L (00:58:58): I think that to... A good citizen to me is if you see something, educate yourself and then do something about it. Make sure you vote or you have a conversation with somebody. Maybe they, not change your mind, but open your mind. There's been many times when I'm like, "Okay, wow, I didn't think about, like the abortion, I didn't think about that. But I think being a good citizen starts with what do you see that's wrong? What can you do within the limits and not bashing anybody, but how can you as a decent person commit to change that that you disagree with or you feel could be better? And then start with yourself. I mean I used to leave the shopping cart wherever by car or whatever. Now, I'm like that poor guy or girl that's out there, how hard is it for me to do that? Though, I mean just little things like that. But it starts with you. But educate yourself and then do something about it, don't just sit there and bash or complain about it within the legal ramifications or what you can do.

G1: C (01:00:16): Feel like to broaden your Horizons, don't be simple minded about stuff and like she said, just go the extra mile to be, it doesn't take a minute to help someone or just do something kind, or if you see a piece of trash. Make your area look nice and pick it up. Or if you seem like an old person that's struggling with something, you help them. Just try to make it, even though it might not affect a whole bunch of people, but it might affect your area or that person at the time.

G1: L (01:00:45): And it could possibly change that person's attitude about that person's culture. You know what I mean? They may have something like, "Wow, well maybe there are some blah, blah, blah, that are nice." You know what I mean? So you could also change somebody's opinion about a different culture to "Wow, they're not all bad." Or you know what I mean? That type of stereotypical-

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

One participant shared that they could be both proud of their cultural heritage and of being American. Several agreed with this sentiment. They did not feel it is a contradiction to embrace their Latino heritage and feel American patriotism.

G1: B (01:01:09): You can embrace your culture but still love your country (USA) too.

G1: L (01:01:12): Oh absolutely. Absolutely.

G1: ME (01:01:13): She's right because changing somebody's thinking about your culture, it's like

G1: E said, you said advocate yourself.

Participating in peaceful protests was viewed as a way to express political opinion. The group did not believe that violent protests are productive.

G1: A (01:03:17): Yeah, there is the difference between violent protests and peaceful standing together for a 'cause and making your voice known. I think, yeah, when it gets out of control and stuff, that's not a good way, good tactic at all.

Moderator (01:03:30): Have you ever participated in a protest?

G1: A (01:03:32): I have, like parades or stuff in front of someplace, but anything I've been in has not been violent at all.

Voting in Arizona was perceived as easy, and there was a mix of methods that participants' cast their votes from in person to mail. There was distrust expressed about the voting system. One conservative participant shared that he preferred to vote in person. They shared concern that when voting by mail, their ballot may not be counted, and another participant suggested it would be thrown away.

Moderator (01:06:00): How difficult is it to vote here in Arizona? Is it hard to do? Is it difficult? How would you describe it?

G1: L (01:06:04): It's easy. I will mail it. I do mail in though and I love it.

G1: V (01:06:08): Extremely easy.

G1: C (01:06:11): I just Google like the locations. Usually it's at a church that I go to.

Moderator (01:06:15): Mm-hmm. And you just go vote, do you go early or election day? How does that work here?

G1: C (01:06:22): I like to go last minute. So within the last hour.

G1: L (01:06:27): You do it though.

Moderator (01:06:28): Okay. G1: V, you say it's very easy to do?

G1: V (01:06:30): Very easy and I like to vote in person, because when you vote in person, the machine where you feed your ballot automatically counts your vote into some memory deG1: Ve that uploads the data. If you vote by mail, it goes on a package. Someone has to open the envelope and feed it to the machine.

G1: ML (01:06:50): The other case you throw them away.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Moderator (01:06:56): Okay. What about on this side? Is voting easy? Is it difficult?

G1: B (01:07:00): I felt it was easy. Yeah, I got mine early and found one of the early voting polls and went in and actually, yeah, you're right, even in the early voting, if it's already sealed in the envelope, you could put it in or you could just go in and use the actual machines.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP & POLITICS

When asked about what motivated them to vote in 2020, one participant said a marijuana tax law proposal. The group did not mention Trump or Biden until probed. They shared that their motivation was to vote against Trump because of his personality and racist rhetoric. One participant felt that voting can bring about change and is better than complaining.

G1: C (01:09:08): I feel like with any year, if you're complaining about something and you have the option to make a difference or be part of that change, then you need to vote instead of just complaining about it.

Moderator (01:09:23): Was there anything that motivated you particularly to vote in 2020?

G1: ME (01:09:26): The marijuana law.

Moderator (01:09:28): The Marijuana law in 2020?

G1: ME (01:09:32): Yeah, because the tax on it, I think, was 5% or 4% was going to go for education K through 12. And I'm like, "Go for it. Let's do it."

Moderator (01:09:44): And that was to legalize marijuana? Was that-

G1: L (01:09:49): It was to legalize recreational use. Because medicine had already been approved. So, it was for recreation.

G1: ME (01:09:56): Yes.

Moderator (01:09:56): Anybody else? Anything motivating you to vote in 2020-

G1: L (01:10:01): For me, and that's one of the reasons I like early is because I like to sit there, and once you read all these proposals and you really get into the pros and the cons or whatever, that motivated me. Because, you read that and then you're like, "Wow, I don't want this or I don't want that." So, it's just a personal motivation for me when I'm looking at the different things that the candidates or the proposals, the laws, or whatever. So, that's what motivates me. "I don't like this or I don't want this, or I'm voting against this," because it's either put up or shut up. Me personally. That's just me personally. You don't sit here and complain if you didn't do anything about it. So-

Moderator (01:10:44): What about specifically Trump versus Biden? Did that motivate anyone to go?

G1: L (01:10:49): Yeah. Absolutely.

Moderator (01:10:52): Okay. Can you tell me what motivated you or in which way, in what direction?

G1: L (01:10:58): And it's not that I just disagreed with everything that Trump did. I just don't like the division that I feel was created under his administration. It's this one against that one. And it's okay. I don't like that we can agree to disagree, and I don't approve 100% of Biden or anything. I just felt me personally, I'd rather hear him talk than hear this rhetoric on some of the things, not everything, you know what I mean? But some of the things.

G1: C (01:11:31): I feel like we just need a new change. Like she said, when Trump was president, I feel like people were more openly racist against everyone. I don't know where you guys are located, but I'm around the Gilbert Mesa area, and on certain days, it was a gang members of all Trump supporters with flags and people just yelling out and beeping his name. It's like, "What?" They're trying to have people join their game. But, I don't 100% like Biden either.



## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP & POLITICS CONT

While some in the group associated the Democratic party with supporting the working classes and issues such as abortion, climate change, voting rights, and equal rights, the Party was also associated with rising gas prices and socialism.

Moderator (01:16:05): All right, let's kind of finish up here. All right. What are some of the things that you all wrote down for Democratic Party? You can just kind of-

G1: C (01:16:13): The only thing I came up with is gas prices rising. It seemed like every time there's a Democrat, the gas prices go up.

Moderator (01:16:22): Okay. Yeah. Why do you think that is?

G1: C (01:16:26): Like when Trump was a president, the gas prices were good, but now all of a sudden it's going up. Maybe because the Republicans have some type of deal with the foreign gas fixing. Yeah.

Moderator (01:16:42): What are some things that you wrote B?

G1: C (01:16:43): Yeah.

G1: B (01:16:48): Climate change.

Moderator (01:16:49): You wrote climate change?

G1: B (01:16:49): They're really heavy on climate change and changing things.

Moderator (01:16:50): And what else did you write?

G1: B (01:16:52): I think they're more for equal rights. I think they're more concerned about the coronavirus and I think they have more regulations on things.

Moderator (01:17:06): Is it good or bad that they have more regulations on things?

G1: B (01:17:12): Sometimes I think it's bad.

Moderator (01:17:13): Okay.

G1: B (01:17:13): Sometimes I think it's good. It's kind of a mix.

Moderator (01:17:15): G1: A, what did you write?

G1: A (01:17:17): I just wrote that there's more concentration of thought on the middle and lower class.

G1: E (01:17:49): I was just laughing at my thought, because of what I wrote, "Border crisis, inflation, lies, freedom of speech gone, crime, amendment rights."

Moderator (01:18:00): Okay.

G1: E (01:18:02): Those are all things that came to mind.

Moderator (01:18:04): And when you say, "Lies," lies about what?

G1: E (01:18:05): Just a lot of lies, not just the one, everything. It just-

Moderator (01:18:09): Can you think of something specific?

G1: E (01:18:10): A lot of lies. Specific? There's too many to think of just one.

Moderator (01:18:14): If you think of something, let me know. G1: ME, what did you write?

G1: ME (01:18:16): I wrote the Democrats are for abortion for women's rights, voting rights.

Moderator (01:18:22): Voting rights. Okay.

G1: ME (01:18:23): Yeah.

Moderator (01:18:24): G1: V, what did you write?

G1: V (01:18:25): I wrote, "Socialism, free rights, media control. Liberals did not respect the constitution."

G1: L (01:19:04): I wrote that to me, the Democrat party more. They represent more of the low to middle class individuals. To me, they're more relatable to me personally, because I fall in that category. And I feel that there are probably more minorities in the Democratic Party than in the Republican Party.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP & POLITICS CONT

When asked what about the Democratic Party makes them represent socialism, healthcare was not mentioned. Instead, wages and minimum wage were discussed, as was the idea of treating all people the same.

Moderator (01:18:32): Okay. And you wrote, "Socialism," what makes you say that?

G1: V (01:18:38): They're trying to take us to socialism. Everybody is the same. Nobody can be the same.

Moderator (01:18:43): And how are they doing that? What are they saying that brings you to that conclusion? Is it anything specific? A specific issue?

G1: V (01:18:53): Yes. That is the salary thing.

Moderator (01:18:55): Okay.

G1: V (01:18:57): Raising the minimum wage, little things.

The Republican Party was associated with the White and wealthy, and big corporations. Republicans were also associated with Christianity and economic growth. The Republican Party was described as being angry, divisive, and unwilling to listen to opposing opinions. They believe that this happened at the same time that Trump took office. One participant noted that Trump represents the Republican Party.

Moderator (01:19:35): Okay. Now what did you write for Republicans?

G1: L (01:19:37): I wrote, "Rich individuals, big corps and predominantly Caucasian."

G1: C (01:19:46): We're the same thing, but-

G1: C (01:19:48): "... Rich-"

G1: L (01:19:49): Big pharma. I could have put, "Big pharma," in there too.

G1: C (01:19:52): "Big name companies." And basically adding your beliefs into politics as well. Christianity and all that.

Moderator (01:20:04): I see. Religious beliefs.

Moderator (01:20:08): Got it. G1: V, what did you write?

G1: V (01:20:10): I wrote, "Economic growth, investment incentives, protect our nation and conservative."

Moderator (01:20:17): Okay. And when you say, "Protecting our nation," what do you mean?

G1: V (01:20:21): For example, the Democrats like to shut down air force bases. They don't protect the borders. They give technology to other countries that they should not be given.

G1: ME (01:20:36): I voted for the Republicans. I wrote "Angry."

Moderator (01:20:38): Angry. What makes you say that?

G1: ME (01:20:38): They're always angry. If you disagree with them, you're our enemy.

(01:20:53): It's like, "What?"

Moderator (01:20:57): Okay. Angry. Okay. G1: E, what did you write for Republicans?

G1: E (01:21:01): For the Republican Party? I wrote, "Job market stability, abortions end. That's pretty much it.

G1: ML (01:22:17): I wrote really small again. I wrote, "Trump, my dad, red corner," because I used to be an anarchist when I was using alcohol. So, then I changed to libertarian and then no party for different reasons.

Moderator (01:22:33): And then you put, "Trump." So, you think Trump represents the Republican Party?

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

### SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP & POLITICS CONT

G1: ML (01:22:46): Yeah.

G1: A (01:22:52): I wrote, "Care more about the wealthy and making money, and more divisive."

Moderator (01:22:56): More divisive. What do you mean by "Divisive?"

G1: A (01:22:58): I think like what he said, with the angry thing, I think it gets divisive really quick, because you just get shut down. There's no conversation. You're like, "Oh, you're against me. If you don't agree with me, it's over." That's it.

Moderator (01:23:12): Do you think it's always been that way?

G1: A (01:23:13): No.

Moderator (01:23:13): No. Okay.

G1: A (01:23:13): I don't think so. Maybe not as overtly. I think with the Trump administration, for me, I think that's when it got okay to just be so aggressive, or angry, or say things without repercussions. It just became the norm. And I think that's what got to this whole divisive thing.

Participants shared that they are not satisfied with the two parties and that the parties were fighting rather than solving problems. They expressed frustration over the two-party system as not offering enough viable choices.

G1: A (01:24:51): Yeah, again, I guess, I have a negative thing about every party right now.

Moderator (01:24:57): What do you mean?

G1: A (01:24:58): Everything's just too extreme in both ways? I think there's no compromise, no one's giving in. So, in my mind right now, I kind of have a negative of both.

G1: ML (01:25:08): Smart.

G1: C (01:25:09): Absolutely. Yeah, I agree-

G1: L (01:25:10): I feel like there should be no Democrats or Republicans, just run and everybody just vote for who you want to vote for. You know what I mean? I just wish that you could just be nondenominational or whatever, and everybody, "Why do you have to go for this one? And why does he have..." You know what I mean? It's all or nothing. Why should it have to be like that?

Moderator (01:25:31): You always felt that way? Or is that something-

G1: L (01:25:33): You know what? No, because it's probably the last 15 years that I've gotten more involved in... I probably didn't start voting until I was 25. I'm 62, you know what I mean? But, now that there are things that I feel like I can relate to or that are concerned to me, then I feel like, "Why?" And I've seen some programs too about the different parties. And sometimes I feel like, "Why can't you just run on whatever? And why do you have to back this person or that person?" Because, then you are in a hole. You know what I mean? You are in a hole. You don't like what they do, then you have no choice, you got to vote. Why couldn't you have four choices for the president? You know what I mean? Why does it have to be two, a Republican and a Democrat? Why can't you have four? Popular vote wins.

G1: C (01:26:28): That's basically a contest about who lies better.

G1: V (01:26:34): See I was born in Peru, always like politics. And I saw Peru going from a country towards the right. And then the same became a selected country. And if you look at the elections, there's 20 people running for president, it becomes a circus. And then it becomes all these kinds of making under the table alliances. Not only for the president but for Congress. And when I came to this country, I really admired it, there were two parties. No you could be a non denomination, but it really admired that as compared to what I saw in Peru. It's a circus. You see 20 people running for president.

# ***FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2***

## **Key Findings for Group 2**

### **SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES**

Concerns for the economy were due to the direct impact it is having on their lives. One shared that they have seen their retirement funds going down as a result of the stock market and they are concerned they won't have enough money to retire.

One participant talked about socialism when discussing the economy, but they used the term to describe attitudes about working, rather than an economic system. They equated socialism with people who do not want to work. Low wages were of concern for this participant.

Participants believe that racism has existed for generations and among all people of color. They shared personal stories of being treated differently because of them being Latino. Those experiences ranged from interacting with police, to going to the grocery store, to getting medical care.

The cost of housing was of concern to the group and several shared that they have seen rent steadily rising. One participant expressed that the wages earned from a minimum wage job are not enough to cover housing including an apartment. One participant shared that they saw housing costs rise since the pandemic.

Participants expressed support for immigrants coming into the US, and one participant became emotional when talking about detained children and believed the government was letting them down. Others expressed providing additional programs to help immigrants.

One male participant shared that while they do not believe in abortion, he feels there should be an exception for the case of rape. He believes that a woman should not have to carry her a child conceived through rape because she did not give her consent. He said that abortion should not be allowed if resulting from irresponsible behavior. A woman participant who ranked abortion as very important agreed with this sentiment. Another male participant felt those decisions should be made by the couple. Two women in the group did not rank abortion as an important issues, one who was not of childbearing age said it didn't matter to her because she didn't have children.

### **SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA**

News aggregate services is a way in which participants noted they get their news. The services determine which are the top stories, and these are delivered daily. Content is a mix of stories and videos. Phones are the primary medium to access this content.

It was shared that consuming news was avoided because the content is primarily negative, which they don't like. Another agreed with this sentiment and shared that they use social media for positive information about what is happening around them.

## ***FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2***

### **SECTION 2 CONT.**

One participant shared that they get their news primarily from their cell phones and are given notifications of important news that is happening. These notifications come mostly from local television stations.

Several participants shared that YouTube was not used for news, but instead was used to listen to music and watch music videos. One participant said they don't click the news that is fed to them through YouTube, and another participant discussed the algorithm, noting that if one doesn't select news content then it will not be fed to the user.

Facebook was mentioned as a place where one participant accessed political news. While Tik Tok was described as delivering only silly videos, not news content.

Generally the group trusts the media, with one participant mentioned Apple News in particular. There was no discussion of corporate ownership and secret agendas. Only one participant said that they did not trust the media and they specifically mentioned CNN and the CNN podcast. Google was not mentioned by anyone in the group as a source.

One participant noted that Spanish news was more gossip based, and that English news provided more information about what is happening in the community.

### **SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES**

Participants believe that good citizens are kind to others, help those in need, and don't litter. One participant noted that a good citizen appreciates the situation that they are living in compared to other countries. One participant mentioned voting, as said that those who have the right should exercise it.

When discussing why they were not registered to vote, participants expressed that they did not have confidence in the election process because their votes didn't matter. Things in their life did not change as a result of them voting. Several felt that the elections were predetermined, and the Trump victory was an example of that. Another participant felt that all politicians were liars, and she did not trust any of them.

One participant shared that they didn't vote because expressing political beliefs, outside of voting, could cause confrontations that lead to physical harm. And one participant said they were just too lazy to register to vote.

Participants had different family experiences when it came to voting. One had very few role models, while another came from a family where everyone votes. They admitted that they do not share with their family that they don't vote for fear that family members would be upset.

There was group consensus that protests were considered as acts of freedom of speech.



## ***FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2***

### **SECTION 4 PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS**

One participant shared that they don't vote because they don't know the difference between the Republican and Democratic parties. The Democratic Party was associated with lower and middle class people, while the Republican Party was viewed as more business oriented.

For one participant, there was general distrust for both parties because promises are broken and they feel that they are lied to.

Participants feel that promises are made to Hispanics during election time, but then those promises are not kept by Democrats.

Participants were open to registering to vote. Connecting their vote to positive change is something that would motivate them to do so.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Concerns for the economy were due to the direct impact it is having on their lives. One shared that they have seen their retirement funds going down as a result of the stock market and they are concerned they won't have enough money to retire.

Moderator (00:09:56): The economy. Can you tell me a little bit about, when you say economy, what does that mean to you when you're talking about the economy? And what's concerning you? Why is this so important to you right now?

G2: V (00:10:05): The DOW market, the stock market, keeps going down and down and down and I'm losing my money. Yeah, I've worked all these years and I retired, and now my money is just being wasted by nothing. I'm not even using it and it's gone.

One participant talked about socialism when discussing the economy, but they used the term to describe attitudes about working, rather than an economic system. They equated socialism with people who do not want to work. Low wages were of concern for this participant.

Moderator (00:11:23): Also? Okay, and what does that mean to you, when you say the economy for you?

G2: U (00:11:27): When economy-wise, I would say the indifference between socialism. It would be from the workplace, just as G2: V said, it would be also trying to enjoy the little bit of life, so not just working every single day.

Moderator (00:11:43): You said socialism? I'm sorry, is that what you said?

G2: U (00:11:46): Yeah.

Moderator (00:11:46): Can you say more? I'm not sure if I understand.

G2: U (00:11:50): Yeah. When the economy drops or something, it affects everybody. That would be a bigger intake of that.

Moderator (00:11:56): I see, okay. And when you say the economy drops, what does that mean, the economy drops? What does that look like?

G2: U (00:12:06): Let's see.

Moderator (00:12:07): No right or wrong answers here, by the way. This is not a test. It's just a conversation. If you're not sure, that's fine too.

G2: U (00:12:14): Probably it's right there.

Moderator (00:12:16): Like what?

G2: U (00:12:19): Just when people really don't want to work and then just, it affects everybody else. For the people that do want to work, don't get paid that much.

Participants believe that racism has existed for generations and among all people of color. They shared personal stories of being treated differently because of them being Latino. Those experiences ranged from interacting with police, to going to the grocery store, to getting medical care.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G2: GA (00:12:33): I was stuck between the crime, public safety, and the racism part. I started racism because it still goes on every day. Even when I went down to Mexico, I could still see it too, but not as much down there, but coming from Indiana, it's so big over there. My grandfather was very racist too, so I see both parts. I believe that it is awful. Every few months, we get a police officer on the internet doing something wrong against a colored person. You see it a lot, even just towards all the colors. We are supposed to love each other and everything, and we see it too much. It happens all the time and a lot of people are just so comfortable with it. We just pass it by and we're worried about other matters, but that's something that's never stopped. It's been an ongoing battle since the '30s, forever.

Moderator (00:13:35): This is not something that you think has happened recently, you see it's something that's been going on for a while?

G2: GA (00:13:39): Well, yeah, yeah, that's what I'm saying. Since the beginning of time, really. It's been going on forever.

Moderator (00:13:46): Well, you said you had trouble between racism and crime and safety. What about crime and safety?

G2: GA (00:13:51): Because that's where I pulled my answer into just how every cop... Not every cop, a lot of cops out there just have that big head on them. That becomes the safety of us. Is it coming back to where Black people aren't safe on the streets? Getting picked out. You see it, we learn about it in our history growing up. I feel like it's-

Moderator (00:14:15): And have you personally had a tussle with the cops or anything?

G2: GA (00:14:19): When I did come to Sedona in the spring, I came here and visited and then I came back to Indiana for a little bit. I came from a very small hometown. I went to the woods to go mushroom hunting. Came out of the woods, surrounded by 10 cops. I was like, "What's going on?" (00:14:41): "Well, we think you're doing drugs and we think that you're stealing from the EMS Drugs." And the very first question they asked me was, "Are you even from the United States?" I was born and raised in Kendallville my whole life. I know these streets more than you guys. This was just months ago, coming from my small hometown.

Moderator (00:15:01): Does anybody agree with G2: GA? Do you feel there's a lot of racism going on?

G2: K (00:15:06): Yeah.

Moderator (00:15:07): G2: K, you do?

G2: K (00:15:09): Mm-hmm. (Spanish 00:15:15 Sometimes you go to certain offices, and you see how they don't want to attend to you).

Moderator (00:15:14): When you go to the store, they don't want to attend to you?

G2: K (00:15:27): Mm-hmm.

Moderator (00:15:27): Uh-huh. You've felt it personally?

G2: K (00:15:32): (Spanish 00:15:32 yes, it's uncomfortable).

Moderator (00:15:31): It's uncomfortable?

G2: K (00:15:32): Yeah. (Spanish 00:15:38 sometimes you do feel excluded) .

Moderator (00:15:38): Yeah, you do feel excluded?

G2: K (00:15:40): Mm-hmm. (Spanish 00:15:44 but mostly when you have little kids and you walk into these offices and you don't speak the language well) .

Moderator (00:15:51): Yeah, when you go to an office with small children and you don't speak the language well?

G2: K (00:15:59): (Spanish 00:15:59 for example, at an emergency room. your English doesn't flow, and they don't attend to you because of the way you present yourself...because you are Hispanic.)

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

The cost of housing was of concern to the group and several shared that they have seen rent steadily rising. One participant expressed that the wages earned from a minimum wage job are not enough to cover housing including an apartment. One participant shared that they saw housing costs rise since the pandemic.

G2: P (00:16:33): The cost of housing is getting outrageous. Just for single people, can't really afford to get a, what is it called, a studio? People are getting evicted and that's causing crime and public safety issues. So many homeless people, you see it, it's so sad, on the bus stops. Just recently, they've started coming down in this area, in this Camelback area. It hasn't been like this for a while. I think within the last year or so, that's where you started noticing them coming this way, staying at the bus stops and stuff, and I've caught the bus and it's an unsafe feeling, because you don't know what they're going to do. They're doing everything from A to Z at the bus stops under blankets, behind cardboard. It's scary. A lot of it, I think, is housing cost.

Moderator (00:17:27): Housing? And that kind of-

G2: P (00:17:30): It trickles. It's a trickle effect from there.

Moderator (00:17:31): Yeah. Have others experienced the same thing with the housing cost being expensive?

G2: GA (00:17:36): Yeah, I will agree on that too, because coming from Indiana, the jobs are about the same, the pay. You make \$20 an hour here, you make \$20 in Indiana, but in Indiana, rent's \$700 a month for a three bedroom. Even apartment, trailer, you're looking about 800, 900 for a house, a smaller house. And you come over here and you're still getting paid the same amount of money, but the houses are double? How are people surviving over here?

G2: U (00:18:03): It's actually for an apartment

G2: GA (00:18:03): I feel bad for Phoenix. Even apartments are just outrageous. It's like, why? You guys aren't getting paid anymore.

G2: U (00:18:13): Because especially on a 20-hour salary wage, apartments are 1,500, just for monthly.

G2: U (00:18:20): It's outrageous.

G2: GL (00:18:23): (Spanish 00:18:23 we're living in a city where prices, rent prices have gone up since the coronavirus).

G2: K (20:31): (Spanish 00:20:31 I'm concerned about education, the schools, mostly because of my kids I care about what they learn).

Moderator (20:38): Because of your kids, you're concerned about the schools? Okay. And what about the school? What about education, just in general? Can you tell me why education is so important? When you say education, what do you mean?

G2: K (20:53): (Spanish 00:20:53 I imagine that education on this form refers to education because after all of this coronavirus thing and I had to teach my kids at home), so no thank you.

Moderator (21:18): Education is a concern for you, because during coronavirus your kids were at home and they didn't learn anything. Okay, I got you. I got you.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G2: K (Spanish 00:21: Now that they've gone back to school, they're super frustrated, because the teachers have started the next grade and they're still... And so they don't have any idea what happened the year before.)

G2: GA (21:52): feel like America failed with that one, the online learning.

G2: GL (21:56): (Spanish 00:21:56 the teachers were the ones that were frustrated).

Moderator (21:57): Yeah, the other problem is that teachers were frustrated.

G2: K (21:59): Yeah, exactly.

G2: GL (22:00): (Spanish 00:22:00 there were just too many kids).

Moderator (22:00): They didn't know what to do with so many kids.

G2: V (22:04): Did they give your kids laptops to take home?

G2: K (22:09): Yeah.

G2: V (22:13): Yeah? Oh, okay.

G2: K (22:18): (Spanish: I bought one because the school only gave one for all three

Moderator (22:18): The school only gave one for all three.

G2: P (22:23): Oh no!

G2: K (22:23): (Spanish: I had to put one on my cell phone for classes, the other on the computer, and another on a tablet.)

Participants expressed support for immigrants coming into the US, and one participant became emotional when talking about detained children and believed the government was letting them down. Others expressed providing additional programs to help immigrants.

Moderator: What about immigration is so important to you right now?

G2: U (00:23:18): Well, I feel that even though it might look bad, I feel like they shouldn't be so strict on it, but strict-wise depending on just immigration, just the transportation, especially with drugs nowadays, and then wise, other than that, it would be actually letting citizens more through.

Moderator (00:23:42): Letting more citizens in?

G2: U (00:23:43): Yeah. And then just a better ground back check of them, just so nothing bad happens over here.

Moderator (00:23:49): Okay. G2: P, why is immigration so important to you?

G2: P (00:23:52): Watching when the kids were in cages and how they were sleeping, that was horrible. They had to implement a better system than that. You know what I mean? And them being separated from their parents, could you imagine what they were going through? Their poor little minds?

Moderator (00:24:08): Who do you hold responsible for?

G2: P (00:24:11): Us. Not just me, not just you, us. Us and the government, definitely. Obviously, they have the number one word to put in, but yeah, that was horrible to watch. And even to this day, you still see them, families and stuff. The two little babies that were just found in the desert, one face down, the four-month-old, and then a 12-month-old or something like that? That's horrible that these people would think that this is the only way to get through. And this is what happens. They have to make that horrible choice to leave their kids behind. Who... Excuse me.

G2: GA(00:25:07): I agree with her totally for the kids part. That was huge for months and it seemed like we weren't really doing much. And then on what G2: U said on making it easier, not really easier, but just having a better program for the immigration laws of other people from other countries that want to come here to have a better life. Why is it so hard sometimes?



## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

Because this is what I just went through too, but it amazes me. I've been thinking about this for a week. I've been trying to get my dual citizenship and I had my appointment last week here, in Phoenix. They denied me, because I was not born a full year after my parents were married. I was five days short so they denied me here, but she said the laws are different in Mexico. I can go over there and bring my papers and I'll be fine. Why?

Moderator (00:26:05): Wow.

G2: GA (00:26:05): Yes, yes, and it made my mind spin. It's like America doesn't want any more immigrants, but go over to Mexico and they're like, "Okay, you want to come here? You want to live? You want to be a part of the country? Go ahead."

One male participant shared that while they do not believe in abortion, he feels there should be an exception for the case of rape. He believes that a woman should not have to carry her a child conceived through rape because she did not give her consent. He said that abortion should not be allowed if resulting from irresponsible behavior. A woman participant who ranked abortion as very important agreed with this sentiment. Another male participant felt those decisions should be made by the couple. Two women in the group did not rank abortion as an important issues, one who was not of childbearing age said it didn't matter to her because she didn't have children.

G2: GL (00:27:33): Yeah. (Spanish 00:27:3 I had a different concept of abortion, but then I talked to my daughter and my wife).

G2: GL (00:28:01): (Spanish 00:28:01 it has to be a special case, to take the life out of something inside you).

G2: GL (00:28:15): (Spanish 00:28:15 because the child did not ask to be brought).

G2: GL (00:28:28): (Spanish 00:28:28 but if the woman has been raped then I think it is within her right).

G2: GL (00:28:36): (Spanish 00:28:36 no one asked her for consent for having that creature).

G2: GL (00:28:46): (Spanish 00:28:46 in the case of the woman who parties and knows that she could get pregnant, I don't think she should have the right to abort).

G2: GL (00:29:13): (Spanish 00:29:13 because at the end it's her fault).

Moderator (00:29:15): Something that she looked for and then she found. G2: V, what did you put on abortion?

G2: V (00:29:19): One.

Moderator (00:29:20): One? Okay. Not an important issue for you right now?

G2: V (00:29:24): No. I don't have any kids either, so...

G2: U (00:29:35): I feel like it should be between a couple's conversation if abortion should be selected between them. I understand like V said, that it should be between the decision, but because if it was rape or non-consensual. They should be allowed to. But if they know the consequences, they should deal with the response that should be happening.

Moderator (00:29:53): G2: K, what did you put on abortion?

G2: K (00:29:56): Cinco. Five.

Moderator (00:29:57): Okay, so not important to you?

G2: K (00:29:58): No.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

Moderator (00:30:02): No? Okay. That's fine. That's fine. And then G2: GA, you... Oh, actually G2: P, what did... You put a 10. Can you tell me why you feel so strongly about abortion? What's your feeling or why is it important to you?

G2: P (00:30:17): Because of my granddaughters. Same thing as he was speaking about. If something happened to them and it wasn't their will, in that case... And you're being irresponsible, in a sense. Well, you're being irresponsible. This is what happens to you. You shouldn't be allowed to, "Hey, I don't want... I made this mistake," and just got rid of life. You know what I mean?

(00:30:44): And like I said, for my granddaughters, for the girls, for the future, you know what I mean? They have to have a right. They just can't take that away from them.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

### SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

News aggregate services is a way in which participants noted they get their news. The services determine which are the top stories, and these are delivered daily. Content is a mix of stories and videos. Phones are the primary medium to access this content.

Moderator (00:30:54): Where are you getting the news that you get? Where are you getting it from?  
 G2: U (00:31:10): I got mine from The Daily. It's an app which is just the weekly news. I wake up in the morning, 6:00 AM, either ride to work and then just drink my coffee and then leave it on.  
 Moderator (00:31:26): And is The Daily, is it an aggregate of TV stations, newspapers?  
 G2: U (00:31:31): Yeah, it's the-  
 Moderator (00:31:31): Or everything mixed up or what is it?  
 G2: U (00:31:33): It's more mixed up. So there are like five different companies that put it into it. So I believe CB, and then New York Times are one of those two, and they just put the worldwide news. So the Queen, the news, plagues and everything that is going on. The most important parts. I kinda search up, like, more like the, like, political talk or YouTubers.

It was shared that consuming news was avoided because the content is primarily negative, which they don't like. Another agreed with this sentiment and shared that they use social media for positive information about what is happening around them.

Moderator (00:32:11): Yeah. G2: GA, where do you get the majority of your news from?  
 G2: GA (00:32:14): I'm kind of a little bit all over the place. I hate watching the news because I feel like it's always so negative. When's the last time you watched the news and it was just all good news? Usually never is.  
 Moderator (00:32:24): Is that true for local and national or...  
 G2: GA (00:32:27): I feel like it's the same. Maybe local, because they kind of worry about the neighborhoods a little bit more, but it depends where you're from too. But I really follow a couple local channels. My back home one, just my local one. And I follow a few on Twitter that's just the kind of topics that I'm interested in, because I don't like just the whole general news thing. I'll pay attention to geography a little bit.  
 G2: P (38:11): He's right. There's no good news on the news. Hardly ever. I like when they come up with the good food stuff, but yeah, my daughter's like, "Why do you watch it? It's nothing but bad news." Said, "No it's not." And when I woke up, I'm like, "Oh, I think you're kind of right." I do social media.

One participant shared that they get their news primarily from their cell phones and are given notifications of important news that is happening. These notifications come mostly from local television stations.

Moderator (34:53): G2: V, what do you get your news from?  
 G2: V (34:57): Mainly on my cell phone too.  
 Moderator (35:00): Okay. And what are you getting? Is it notifications or-  
 G2: V (35:04): Yeah. Notifications that pop up. And I still have some from California that I haven't taken off, so they give me news from over there too.  
 Moderator (35:16): And you say they give you news, is it a newspaper or is it a-  
 G2: V (35:24): No, a TV station news, like Channel five and Channel seven. They'll just say, Oh, there's- like a car chase going on right now on the freeway or whatever. And just little things. And over here too, I found some local ones. They just...  
 Moderator (35:46): They'll ding you, it'll just send you a notification.  
 G2: V (35:50): Yeah. Like the one about the Queen passing away and just every...

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

### SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

Moderator (35:56): And that, is that a TV station, then? You're getting it, you're getting the notifications from the TV station?

G2: V (36:01): The one here, I'm not sure. I think it's something new. News Network or something like that. But it's the local one here.

G2: I (00:41:45):

You polarize people.

Several participants shared that YouTube was not used for news, but instead was used to listen to music and watch music videos. One participant said they don't click the news that is fed to them through YouTube, and another participant discussed the algorithm, noting that if one doesn't select news content then it will not be fed to the user.

Moderator (36:58): And when you're on YouTube, what are you looking for? No news, it's just music? What do you do on YouTube?

G2: GL (37:03): (foreign language 00:37:03 I listen to Mexican music).

Moderator (37:02): Okay. Do you listen to Mexican music?

G2: GL (37:09): (foreign language 00:37:09 rock clasico , classical.

Moderator (37:10): Just music, then.

G2: GL (37:15): (foreign language 00:37:15 and hard rock, like metallic).

G2: U (37:35): Now that you mentioned, there's actually some news... Now that the Queen has died, there's more political things. If you get bored, keep on scrolling down on YouTube when the news pops up out of nowhere.

Moderator (37:45): Oh really?

G2: U (37:45): Yeah.

Moderator (37:46): And do you click it when it does?

G2: U (37:50): No. I just go right through.

Moderator (37:50): Okay.

G2: V (37:50): I think what it is, once you click on something, it'll give you more of that.

Moderator (37:55): Right.

G2: V (37:56): So if you never click on the news, it won't give you any news.

G2: P (38:11): He's right. There's no good news on the news. Hardly ever. I like when they come up with the good food stuff, but yeah, my daughter's like, "Why do you watch it? It's nothing but bad news." Said, "No it's not." And when I woke up, I'm like, "Oh, I think you're kind of right." I do social media.

Facebook was mentioned as a place where one participant accessed political news. While Tik Tok was described as delivering only silly videos, not news content.

Moderator (38:28): Oh, so you're on social media too? On Facebook?

G2: P (38:30): Mm-hmm. I have a lot of things, alerts that I look up on there.

Moderator (38:35): Okay, so you use Facebook to get some political news sometimes or no?

G2: P (38:38): Yeah.

Moderator (38:38): Okay. And what about TikTok? Does anybody use TikTok?

G2: P (38:46): I can watch it.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

### SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

Moderator (38:47): No? G2: V you do TikTok?

G2: V (38:51): No.

Moderator (38:52): You watch TikTok? Do you get any news from TikTok?

G2: P (38:57): I didn't know that you could get news on TikTok. Really? Okay. I don't know.

Moderator (39:03): And ...you don't get news on TikTok? It's just (foreign language 00:39:05 little videos)?

Generally the group trusts the media, with one participant mentioned Apple News in particular. There was no discussion of corporate ownership and secret agendas. Only one participant said that they did not trust the media and they specifically mentioned CNN and the CNN podcast. Google was not mentioned by anyone in the group as a source.

Moderator (39:50): Is there any particular news that you trust? A news source that you trust over another? Maybe a certain channel or maybe a reporter or maybe it's a kind of platform. Is there one that you trust more than another? That you really-

G2: U (40:06): Apple News.

Moderator (40:06): You trust Apple News?

G2: U (40:07): Yeah. That's where I get most of my stock information. So just to see how the market's going on different sources.

Moderator (40:15): And so it's on your phone, I assume?

G2: U (40:18): Yes.

Moderator (40:18): Yeah. G2: V, is there any news that you particularly find especially trustworthy, or are they at all trustworthy? Maybe you don't trust any of them?

G2: V (40:28): No, I trust them all.

Moderator (40:35): Okay. Does anybody not trust the news or the news media?

G2: U (40:38): There's some news that just brings up the random most stuff out there.

G2: GA(40:43): Yeah, CNN will get me too sometimes. It's just weird. I don't trust a lot of things they say, really. I don't.

Moderator (40:52): What's weird about CNN?

G2: GA (40:54): I don't know. They just bring up off-brand topics, especially when they bring up politics. It was one of Trump's speeches back in the election versus Joe versus T. That's how I like to call it. And they misinterpreted some of Trump's things, and CNN put it on their podcast, their 10 minute podcast. And it misjudged the viewing of some people. So that's like, when you get to see the actual point of view, it's not the real point of view that the TV news puts up. And CNN just doesn't fit anymore.

One participant noted that Spanish news was more gossip based, and that English news provided more information about what is happening in the community.

G2: K (42:27): (foreign language 00:42:27 in Spanish it is pure gossip you don't learn anything about your community).



## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

### SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Participants believe that good citizens are kind to others, help those in need, and don't litter. One participant noted that a good citizen appreciates the situation that they are living in compared to other countries. One participant mentioned voting, as said that those who have the right should exercise it.

Moderator (42:55): So I would talk a little bit about, now, about what it means to be a good citizen. And I don't mean a good citizen in the legal sense of being a citizen of the US, but more like a citizen in society. What it is that you do to... What are your obligations and such in our society? So what does it mean to be a good citizen?

G2: P (43:27): So just be willing to have an open air to somebody you don't know. Just in case. Be kind, be cordial. That person might be going through something and they just need to talk to somebody and you just might be that somebody. Be nice, be cordial. Because that's how I am. I talk to everybody, even at the bus stops. Yeah. And it does change you. You know what I mean? When you can talk to somebody and they share a certain story with you, and I'll pray for them and that's how I think people should be and don't litter.

Moderator (44:03): Don't litter?

G2: P (44:04): Right. Don't litter.

G2: U (44:09): Being part of the community. Just like some community service from time to time, or just a community job would be good. Just so people around your area get to know you a little bit better. Especially because at the end of the day, those are the people that you live around with.

Moderator (44:22): So knowing your community and the people, you think that's part of being a good citizen. Okay. Anybody else?

G2: V (44:29): Helping people in need.

Moderator (44:33): Helping people in need. Okay. Okay. G2: GA, what do you think?

G2: GA (44:40): Yeah. I'm just going to agree with everybody, because that is the main thing. Being a really good person and being a good citizen goes a long way. Don't break the laws. Stay out of trouble.

Moderator (44:46): Don't break the laws, stay out of jail.

G2: GA (44:49): Just try to live your best life every day. Don't take advantage of all the things that aren't here in other countries. I think we take advantage of that so much, so much. It's retarded. We ride in cars all day. We sit at a job all day, and it's just, that's it. We take advantage of a lot of things. There's a lot more to life than just doing that.

G2: GL (45:55): (foreign language 00:45:55 I need to teach my children to obey the laws both in my house and in their communities).

G2: GL (46:15): (foreign language 00:46:15 it doesn't matter where you live, whether you're on earth or on the moon).

G2: GL (46:24): (foreign language 00:46:24 you always have responsibilities).

G2: GL (46:38): (foreign language 00:46:38 don't get into problems with people).

G2: GL (46:41): (foreign language 00:46:41 if you have the right to vote, vote).

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

### SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES CONT

When discussing why they were not registered to vote, participants expressed that they did not have confidence in the election process because their votes didn't matter. Things in their life did not change as a result of them voting. Several felt that the elections were predetermined, and the Trump victory was an example of that. Another participant felt that all politicians were liars, and she did not trust any of them. One participant shared that they didn't vote because expressing political beliefs, outside of voting, could cause confrontations that lead to physical harm. And one participant said they were just too lazy to register to vote.

G2: GA (00:47:56): Well, while I was in Indiana, I was registered for a long time, but I really only voted for maybe one election, maybe two. But I had more interest in voting for the smaller things in my community. So that's why I became registered, and those things I see change around me. The presidency I don't really see, I live my life every day. I don't see much change. I do, but I don't at the same time.

Moderator (00:48:22): So voting in a presidential doesn't affect you?

G2: GA (00:48:24): Not really. I really think it's like a big show anymore these days. I guess it is really like a TV drama when you see the election. And I feel like it's already picked out before.

Moderator (00:48:35): You feel like it's predetermined?

G2: GA (00:48:36): Yeah, I really do, honestly.

Moderator (00:48:38): What makes you feel that way?

G2: GA (00:48:40): Just because of the way it all... Even at the end of the elections you'll have all these miscounted ballots and it's like, how did this guy already win when you already have all these ballots and then you have your mail in ballots? And every single year or every time there's an election, every year there's always surplus ballots. There's always mis-votes. There's always votes from their deceased people all the time. So it's like, does your vote really count though sometimes?

Moderator (00:49:07): So you used to vote, but now you don't vote anymore.

G2: GA (00:49:10): Just because of how dramatic it's become. It really has. You can sit there and watch the election, the debate, and just sit there and laugh. Are these people really serious, or are they just doing it for the attention and the show?

Moderator (00:49:22): Was there something in particular that happened or you just kind of accumulated and you just thought, "Well, I'm done with voting."

G2: GA (00:49:30): As soon as the Trump thing came above, that was the whole thing that really... That was last year. Last time I voted. It really was. First time he ran, the last time I voted. So...

Moderator (00:49:42): Did you vote for Trump or you voted against him?

G2: GA (00:49:43): No, I did not.

Moderator (00:49:43): You didn't? Yeah. But when he won, that sort of broke the camel's back?

G2: GA (00:49:50): No, it was just the whole show.

Moderator (00:49:52): The whole thing.

G2: GA (00:49:53): It was the whole show. And I still continue to vote in my smaller communities, because I see changes in that stuff. I do. You got a small town, you want this girl that's been wanting to change the town that wants to redo the pavements and the streets, redo the parks from somebody that wants to see.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

### SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES CONT

Moderator (00:50:38): G2: P, what about you? Anything that, I mean...

G2: P (00:50:43): Lies. Deception.

Moderator (00:50:45): Mm-hmm.

G2: P (00:50:46): I think the last time I voted I was in my early twenties. And I was like, "These guys just lie, lie, lie." They're going to say, "I'm going to give you free McDonald's for a year if I win." Yeah, right. Just a bunch of... It is what it is, and they are who they are, and I can't change that. And I know sometimes I thought that one vote doesn't make a difference, but it could and it would at a certain point in time. But I don't know. I need to get my head out my... And vote. I do, I know I need to, but I just really haven't. Obviously I haven't. So I'm being honest. I was in my twenties, so like I said, it was just a bunch of lies.

Moderator (00:51:33): Yeah. Is it because there's not candidates that you like? Or is it because you don't think your vote matters? What do you think?

G2: P (00:51:40): It was that, and like I said, the lies. And then I'm just going to say it. With Trump, I thought this was crazy. This man has no background in politics. He's just rich. And he's a richer people's puppet or what, you know what I mean? And America ate it up. They ate that up. Just stuff like that in general, you know what I mean?

G2: U (00:52:24): I mean, I do want to vote, but I just don't feel safe to vote.

Moderator (00:52:29): What do you mean?

G2: U (00:52:30): For some reason.

Moderator (00:52:31): What do you mean you don't feel safe?

G2: U (00:52:33): Especially during presidential elections, especially with this recent one, it felt like even having a simple thought about voting or just having an opinion could get you harmed for some reason.

Moderator (00:52:45): Personally harmed?

G2: U (00:52:46): Personally harmed. Physically. Just having a different opinion from someone else just could get you hurt.

G2: U (00:52:54): I've seen so many fights and even friendships being lost over just a political discussion.

G2: GA (00:52:59): It's gross.

G2: U (00:53:01): I think that's one of the reasons I just really haven't chosen to go.

G2: GL (00:54:13): (foreign language 00:54:13 it doesn't matter who you vote for).

G2: GL (00:54:15): (foreign language 00:54:15 the ones on top will always win).

G2: GL (00:54:22): (foreign language 00:54:22 at the end of the day you are just another number).

Moderator (00:56:30): G2: V. What about you? So you're eligible to vote, but you don't vote. You voted in the past.

G2: V (00:56:35): Yeah, a bit in the past. Right now I think I'm just too lazy to register. And I was just thinking that my vote won't count. It's just one vote.

Participants had different family experiences when it came to voting. One had very few role models, while another came from a family where everyone votes. They admitted that they do not share with their family that they don't vote for fear that family members would be upset.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

### SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES CONT

Moderator (01:00:39): I'm just curious, G2: U. So you're not registered to vote. But were your parents? Did they vote or did you grow up with people voting in your house or no?

G2: U (01:00:49): No.

Moderator (01:00:49): No, no one's ever voted in...

G2: U (01:00:50): I think one time, what was it? One of my aunties took me to school and then she had to vote before. So she made me wait in the car. Long lines. But I think it's also the system, just voting in general, something safer. Because especially with online voting now it doesn't seem right. I feel like just hacking or just a system otherwise messed up.

Moderator (01:01:20): Mm-hmm. G2: P, what about you? Did you come from a family of voters? Did your parents vote? They did? Yeah?

G2: P (01:01:27): Even to this day, I sit at family dinners. I'll listen to everybody's conversations about topics. Got bold. We got everybody in half and this and half and that side, my family doesn't know I don't vote.

Moderator (01:01:41): Okay. So they don't know. You don't tell them. No.

G2: P (01:01:43): They would be mad.

Moderator (01:01:45): They would be mad at you?

G2: P (01:01:45): Oh yeah.

Moderator (01:01:46): Yeah.

G2: P (01:01:48): Oh yeah. And now sitting here listening to you and I'm like to myself and her and her, everybody, if you don't vote. And my mentality is like, I don't think one vote will make a difference, but dang it. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. It adds up.

There was group consensus that protests were considered as acts of freedom of speech.

G2: GA (01:04:52): Yeah. See, around the processing part. I really think that, as being a citizen, that is our right, is our freedom of speech. Our freedom of acts, as long as it does abide by those laws, don't get crazy with it. But to an extent, depends what we're protesting on because for black rights, look at the black Panthers. They went to the white house with guns, the Supreme court marched, they marched there. They won, they had to get a point across. So I mean, I believe that protests might get a little bit deep sometimes, but if a point needs to be made, it needs to be made. People need to be heard.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

### SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

One participant shared that they don't vote because they don't know the difference between the Republican and Democratic parties. The Democratic Party was associated with lower and middle class people, while the Republican Party was viewed as more business oriented. For one participant, there was general distrust for both parties because promises are broken and they feel that they are lied to.

G2: U (01:06:12): Another reason I didn't vote. Because I don't don't know the difference.

Moderator (01:06:16): What are some of the things that you wrote down under democratic party?

G2: GA (01:08:30): I see when I see blue. It's usually for the people, the lower class, middle class people. Most of the time I can kind of relate to what they're trying to say to the people who usually grab my attention more.

G2: GA (01:08:48): And then Republican. I always, they're more worried about the people that are already financially stable and the CEOs. They're more worried about those people and not really the upcoming, the youth, the actual people that are surviving in this country.

G2: P (01:09:14): Just put it on for both of them. Deception. That's my main thing. I think that's what's stopping me. I mean. I would go home and rather think about this.

Moderator (01:09:27): Is there anything in particular that you feel you've been deceived about?

G2: P (01:09:30): Just like I said, what they say and what they really end up doing in the long run, they don't do what they say. I mean, I'll say I don't really understand. And I know that they have to do whatever they won't say to the big people, but for us when they tell us something certain they're going to lower taxes, you know what I mean? And then instead of the tax going lower, it quadruples. Just, I mean, I know that might not be in their control, but just lies, lies and lies to keep, to get an office and to stay in office.

Moderator (01:10:03): Do you see that happening at all levels of government?

G2: K (01:10:05): Yes.

G2: V (01:10:12): So for Democrats, I put that, I think it's more for dealing with issues that affect the poorer people. That's what I

G2: V (01:10:24): And then the Republican party is opposite. It's more tailored towards people who are rich.

G2: GL (01:11:28): (foreign language 01:11:28 Democrats protect the working class).

Moderator (01:11:28): They take care of the working class more. Okay. And what did you put under Republican

G2: GL (01:11:35): (foreign language 01:11:35 they make better laws but they want to fill their wallets).

Moderator (01:11:43): To make better laws and fill their wallets. Is that at all levels of government? (foreign language 01:11:50).

G2: GL (01:11:50): (foreign language 01:11:50 yeah in all of them).

Moderator (01:11:56): I've always thought that way. Yes. Okay. G2: U, you said you don't know the difference.

G2: U (01:12:00): I don't know the difference. I feel like they all just end up saying something and then just end up doing something they didn't even mention. And I guess, I mean the difference, especially when I was in high school, I think it was just the donkey and the elephant. I mean, their symbols.



## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

### SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

Participants feel that promises are made to Hispanics during election time, but then those promises are not kept by Democrats.

Moderator (01:17:15): What about a negative view of the democratic party? Does anyone have a negative view of the democratic party? What about a negative view of the Republican party? Anybody have a negative view of the Republican party?

G2: GL (01:17:28): (foreign language 01:17:28 possibly the democrats).

G2: GL (01:17:38): (foreign language 01:17:38 yes).

G2: GL (01:17:47): (foreign language 01:17:47 even though they care about the working class, they also just confuse you more and more).

G2: GL (01:17:51): (foreign language 01:17:51 they promise that they will help the economy and then it becomes worse).

G2: GL (01:17:58): (foreign language 01:17:58 they promise that they're going to help Hispanics but then they don't).

G2: GL (01:18:08): (foreign language 01:18:08 so my friends always ask who do you think is going to win and I just reply I really don't care).

Participants were open to registering to vote. Connecting their vote to positive change is something that would motivate them to do so.

G2: U (01:18:35): A little bit of changes around the community. You don't have to be big. Just seeing that they're actually...

Moderator (01:18:40): What kind of changes would you like to see?

G2: U (01:18:44): As I heard from G2: GL, the Democratic party goes more for the lower class. So seeing some lower class changes in the community, just better streets or anything like that.

G2: U (01:18:56): Just a little bit more funding to their city council or something like that, just so they can also improve. That would actually get me to vote. Seeing that there's actually going to be change and support.

# ***FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3***

## ***Key Findings for Group 1***

### **SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES**

When discussing inflation in rising costs, a participant noted the increase in food costs but also mentioned the rising cost of housing. They had wanted to purchase a home, but now are not able to and are considering moving back to California where they believe the homes are more affordable. Another participant listed housing costs as their greatest concern and also noted that rents and the cost to purchase a home have risen dramatically.

Education was important to a participant because of concern that the state was continuing to cut funds from public education. These cuts are blamed on Republican leadership, specifically Governor Ducey and congressional leaders, who they believe are shifting public education funds to private charter school companies. The participant believes that money is being used to influence Republicans and that these financial contributions are not reported.

One participant who shared she had been a victim of sexual abuse felt that abortion policies were moving in the wrong direction. She expressed concerns about the trauma associated with sexual abuse and how that could be compounded by having to carry a baby to term that was a result from that abuse.

The participants described the economy as consisting of everything from cost of goods to wages to living within their means. They noted that they are seeing a large increase for the cost of all types of goods, while wages remain stagnant. They shared that they are forced to live paycheck to paycheck.

Several participants rated immigration as important, and expressed their frustration with a slow and inefficient immigration system. They shared personal stories of trying to get legal status for a family member, a process that has taken over 25 years in one case. They expressed concern for those who were in dangerous situations and having to wait for long periods of time. They also explained how a broken immigration system is keeping good people from becoming productive members of society, as is the case for an undocumented looking to get their nursing certification but are not able to because of their status. One participant shared that as Mexican-American, they are neither Mexican nor American. They were born in the US, but could not relate to people from Mexico. They had assimilated and felt less Mexican as a result of that.

Concern about crime was centered on children and school safety. They referenced events that have recently happened as causing this concern.

Drugs were described as changing people, particularly young people. They see drug use as leading them to homelessness and prostitution.

While several participants rated racism as important, one participant gave it a low rating because they were convinced that nothing could be done about eliminating racism. At one time they thought things would change, but now they know longer feel that way. They were pessimistic and felt they have no control over other issues like immigration, abortion and rising costs. Another participant share that they experienced racism from other Hispanics because of the color of their skin. It was shared that darker skinned individuals were more likely to be targets of racism. It was also shared that Donald Trump made it OK for people to be racist.

## ***FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3***

### **SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA**

The news that participants are consuming is being delivered to them through news aggregates or social media. They are delivered headlines and then select stories that interest them. One participant described the news on Facebook as well written and trustworthy, and it consists of links to other sources. Facebook was described as providing both local and national news. TikTok was not seen as a valuable source of real news.

Participants are following political figures on social media. One participant shared that she used to follow Biden on social media but then put him on mute because he was posting things she did not agree with. Another said they preferred Instagram over Facebook because they enjoyed the photographs more. Participants who did not use social media, access news sources directly through apps. One shared that they felt they were losing brain cells by watching social media feeds.

YouTube was not used for news, rather for entertainment like recipes, music, and television programming. Only one person mentioned using YouTube for news, and it was to learn about a breaking news event. Google news was a source of news where participants self-select news stories that interest them. Several participants shared that they get breaking news from text messages to their cell phones. News topics ranged from immigration raids to school shootings. Whisper networks

Participants shared that they don't use Twitter because they don't like it or don't understand it.

### **SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES**

These participants were children of immigrants or immigrants themselves. They believed that good citizens vote. This is mentioned by several participants. They also shared that good citizens are involved in their community, help others, and ask questions to better understand things.

One participant described protest as important to being a good citizen. They shared that if one doesn't stand up for injustice, then they are part of it.

### **SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS**

One participant shared that the first time she voted was to vote against Donald Trump and she displayed a Biden sign in her yard because her neighbor was a Trump supporter. Another shared that they voted because they were drawn to Obama and his message of change. The message of change resonated with them.

One participant shared that she voted for Trump when he first ran, but then changed her vote in his re-election. They shared that they had lost friendships because of their vote for Trump. They voted for no one in Trump's re-election.

## ***FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3***

### **SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT.**

A participant shared that the November elections were important because of a proposition on the ballot that would affect college tuition. The Proposition would provide in-state college tuition for DREAMERs. Participants viewed the budget cuts of public school funds as a form of racism against poor and disabled children. They see the vouchers as helping the children of the rich millionaires who never had their children in public schools to begin with.

Participants shared that they want to see the state turn Democrat so that the public schools will not lose funding. They believe that Democratic leadership will keep the public schools properly funded. One participant shared that the public is misinformed about public schools, they think Charter Schools are helpful, but they are actually hurting student performance.

A participant shared she is voting in the next election simply to vote against Trump who claimed he had won Arizona even though he actually lost. They want to vote to prove that he really did lose the election. Another participant noted that there is a proposition on the ballot requiring ID to vote, and they supported this law believing it would make the elections more secure.

The group described the Democratic Party as standing up for all, including Latinos. They also see the party helping people and supporting issues like health care and education. They generally view the Democratic Party in a positive light and as change for the better. Fighting to lower prescription drug costs was also noted.

The Republican Party was viewed as the party of rich, White racist men, who put business interest ahead of the people. They are also perceived as keeping Democrats from accomplishing things.

Conservatism was primarily associated with the Republican Party, and was described as religious, very traditional, and the party of “no.” While liberalism was associated with freedom.

There was consensus that the Democratic Party does more for Hispanics than the Republican party. And one participant described republicans as helping each other and told the story of Donald Trump’s father giving him a million dollars to start his business. They feel the Republican party is disconnected. Participants shared that they like for candidates to blockwalk and go out into the community and talk to voters. They feel better connected to the candidates when they do this.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

When discussing inflation in rising costs, a participant noted the increase in food costs but also mentioned the rising cost of housing. They had wanted to purchase a home, but now are not able to and are considering moving back to California where they believe the homes are more affordable. Another participant listed housing costs as their greatest concern and also noted that rents and the cost to purchase a home have risen dramatically.

G3: V (00:09:09): I put inflation and rising costs, because for me, a family of five children, I see the costs. I mean, going to buy a jar of mayonnaise used to cost me \$6 at Costco, now almost \$11. I see that everything is going up. I didn't say it at the beginning, but I've been living here for 13 years, we decided to rent a few years ago and it was the worst mistake, because now I say, "Now with the house costs are extreme."

Moderator (00:09:43): To buy a house.

G3: V (00:09:44): To buy a house. I have plans to even move back to California, because it's cheaper in the area where I used to live than here.

G3: J (00:09:57): No, housing costs. I know what you are saying because I rent. My mom and dad have homes here in Arizona, they arrived as immigrants and everything. At one time I had hoped to buy a house, but the more I'm living and getting older, the more I'm losing hope of someday buying a house. Housing costs, for me—

Moderator (00:10:21): Is this something that you have seen changed recently or is it something that in the last--?

G3: N (00:10:26): About two years.

G3: J (00:10:28): The state rents have been changing, but right now it looks like a very big jump, very big spike in rents. My mom rents, she has a duplex in her house and she rents the back. It used to be, four, five years ago, \$400 and I was perfectly happy. Now she says, "I have to increase it." I am a person who they raise the rent on, I feel how they feel. That's, for me.

Education was important to a participant because of concern that the state was continuing to cut funds from public education. These cuts are blamed on Republican leadership, specifically Governor Ducey and congressional leaders, who they believe are shifting public education funds to private charter school companies. The participant believes that money is being used to influence Republicans and that these financial contributions are not reported.

G3: VR (00:07:58): Well, I'm a teacher and I think that here in Arizona, unfortunately, the state budget for education is pretty low and all the time they're trying to take money away. For me it is very important, especially the public schools.

G3: N (00:10:59): For me it was education.

Moderator (00:11:00): Education too?

G3: N (00:11:02): Because I am a teacher, it is becoming to me that we are in a state that wants to kill public schooling. They want to steal, to—

Moderator (00:11:17): Who wants to steal?

G3: N (00:11:19): Republicans. Gov. Ducey wants-- What's happening is that his friends and the people who are in Congress are opening charter schools, they give them a lot of money and they don't have to report their finances.



## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

One participant who shared she had been a victim of sexual abuse felt that abortion policies were moving in the wrong direction. She expressed concerns about the trauma associated with sexual abuse and how that could be compounded by having to carry a baby to term that was a result from that abuse.

G3: E (00:08:26): Abortion.

Moderator (00:08:28): Can you explain to me why that right now is a very important issue for you?

G3: E (00:08:32): For me, because instead of continuing steps forward we are going backwards. I was a victim of sexual abuse when I was a girl and I think about if I had gotten pregnant now, being in this present, I would not have those rights to have an abortion. It was and is a very traumatic thing for me, I have a lot of problems from that too. Listening to everything I hear on the news of laws that keep changing and women not having rights over our bodies is something very important to me.

The participants described the economy as consisting of everything from cost of goods to wages to living within their means. They noted that they are seeing a large increase for the cost of all types of goods, while wages remain stagnant. They shared that they are forced to live paycheck to paycheck.

Moderator (00:12:28): When we are talking about economy, what is economy? What is this? When we are talking about the economy, what is it? What does it mean to you?

G3: J (00:12:40): Literally, everything. My mom says, "Walking out your front door is spending \$1," literally. Now, being in your house, the air, the light, the WiFi, you name it, it's all, literally, the economy. Mayonnaise. Something minimal that, "Nah," but yeah. At the dollar store, \$1.25, which used to be, "It's nothing," but one says, "Yes, it does add up." I went shopping for Halloween decorations today. Before I remember that- Now it was, "\$5." Every four things are \$5, that's how I count it already. Before it was, "One, two, three, four," and I felt like a millionaire, now everything costs. Everything is changing. I don't know

Moderator (00:13:29): G3: V, when I say, "Economy," to you, what does that mean? The economy.

G3: V (00:13:34): The same, inflation. How things are going. If jobs go up, you get paid more in salary, things also go up, how do you level things out like that?

Moderator (00:13:55): For you, is the economy about jobs, wages and all that? Okay. G3: E, for you?

G3: E (00:14:03): For me, it would be looking at different options on how to cut things in the house and how to maintain them, because I like to maintain what you say on a budget, like say for food. We make dinner and make enough. There are only two of us in the house, we don't have any children, but dinner is also served for lunch the next day. We buy just the week's stuff and don't buy extra. We also subtract our bills, which we have Netflix and all that. I don't like to live paycheck to paycheck, I like to be comfortable. Right now, in these times, as my mom would say, "It's lean times," so I learned that about not living paycheck to paycheck and being more efficient with what we earn.

G3: VR (00:15:04): Thinking a lot about what G3: J and G3: V are saying, the cost of everything we're spending, but also of how much we're earning. They keep trying to raise the wage and the minimum wage and that's progressing, but I feel like it's not enough seeing how much everything is going up in cost.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

Several participants rated immigration as important, and expressed their frustration with a slow and inefficient immigration system. They shared personal stories of trying to get legal status for a family member, a process that has taken over 25 years in one case. They expressed concern for those who were in dangerous situations and having to wait for long periods of time. They also explained how a broken immigration system is keeping good people from becoming productive members of society, as is the case for an undocumented looking to get their nursing certification but are not able to because of their status.

G3: N (00:15:46): I am a person who is an immigrant. I feel that I took my chance and did some good things with my life. I had a good opportunity. What also worries me a lot is that people who want to come to the United States to get papers in and all that, the process is very slow. It takes years and years and years to be able to bring your family. But at the same time, because it's very difficult, a lot of people are crossing over as fast as they can. As I work in a school, we have so many immigrants, we have so many immigrants coming in and we don't have enough teachers to educate everybody. I say if the United States had a better system, that ran a little bit faster, we wouldn't have crowds on the bridge trying to cross. This is what I believe. Because I tried to arrange papers for my half-brother. I submitted the papers in 1997 and we just got the papers. In that case, he already had American children.

G3: N (00:17:10): We have been waiting since 1997. That is ridiculous. Since he was my half-brother, I said, "No, okay, he was listed all the way down". This is very slow.

G3: V (00:17:26): My brother waited 14 years to receive a letter saying that his application had been accepted. Only a letter stating that their application had been accepted.

G3: N (00:17:41): So how do you expect people to wait and wait? Especially if you are in a very dangerous situation.

G3: VR (00:17:53): My mom and dad came to this country, thanks to them coming here I had the opportunity to be born here and the opportunities I had. I see in my students, who are so- I have such smart students but they haven't even been able to apply for DACA, because they closed that a long time ago. I specifically have a student who wanted to be in my class to see if we work together and she wants to be a nurse. He's seeing what she can do to get there, but she can't. She will not be able to receive certification because she is not here legally. She's a very smart girl, she's planned events for the community, very involved, but unfortunately she doesn't have the same opportunities because she wasn't born here. For me, everything about migration is important. My parents met here. After that, my uncles and aunts all came. No one could go to visit my grandparents, my cousins, my uncles and aunts.

Moderator (00:18:58): They could not return.

G3: VR (00:19:00): -because they could not return. I was the only granddaughter that my grandfather really had a close relationship with. That was very difficult for me, to see that he didn't have that relationship with my cousins and cousins, because they couldn't come back.

One participant shared that as Mexican-American, they are neither Mexican nor American. They were born in the US, but could not relate to people from Mexico. They had assimilated and felt less Mexican as a result of that.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G3: N (00:26:56): As a person who can say, "I like to go hiking a lot". And it's a hiking group. So there's, "We're racist, we can use those kinds of words," like the N word, things like that. I think it has evolved, because before it was racism among the culture as well, especially among Chicanos. I think because the border crossed them, it was something that they were on this side, so they became Mexican-American. There is also a division, because to them the border crossed, but to the immigrants who come here illegally, looking for a better life, they look down on them because they had to have entered legally. I understand, but I understood more why my mom crossed the border when I went to Juárez to get my papers. I had a culture shock.

I was here for 31 and a half years without papers. I was born in México, but I don't know México. When I go there I don't speak Spanish like they do. They ask me when I'm going to visit, then later they even know how I dress. I think it's already evolved differently, and more so because, especially the Chicanos, they had to assimilate to life here and the names that they were called.

Yeah, I took a Chicano class in Chicano studies to understand that generation more and I think I came out more confused. I think I'm a very emotional person, that I take my emotions, when other people may be more intellectual.

Concern about crime was centered on children and school safety. They referenced events that have recently happened as causing this concern.

G3: V (00:19:44): Fortunately, I live in an area where I don't worry about it too much, but I have family who live in a place that's not very good. That's not what I worry about, but right now what I worry about is everything that's going on in the schools, which affects the children, too. That's why I gave it a 10.

Drugs were described as changing people, particularly young people. They see drug use as leading them to homelessness and prostitution.

G3: J (00:20:26): People look at each other in the street. People have always gone there, but they look lost. People look at themselves as if they are on drugs, nothing else. It was not a bad life that they were on the street, it was if they were using drugs and it was what consumed their life, for them being on the streets. It's so sad and it's so ugly.

G3: V (00:20:49): They say they change the drugs to make it a vibrant color or something, to attract the kids and that's what's scary.

G3: J (00:20:59): There are many children, many young people. Yes it is true. You look and say, "Look at that person, that's a child. She has to be 18 years old, if anything." They look at people, little girls, "Look what a pretty girl," and she's walking around, getting close to cars because they're going to offer her drugs or money for drugs. It's ugly. I remember going to high school, I didn't look so much like that, I didn't look at so many people on the street.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

While several participants rated racism as important, one participant gave it a low rating because they were convinced that nothing could be done about eliminating racism. At one time they thought things would change, but now they know longer feel that way. They were pessimistic and felt they have no control over other issues like immigration, abortion and rising costs. Another participant share that they experienced racism from other Hispanics because of the color of their skin. It was shared that darker skinned individuals were more likely to be targets of racism. It was also shared that Donald Trump made it OK for people to be racist.

G3: J (00:21:48): What I feel is that the most important things-- For example, the other thing that I put like a 1 or something, is that they're not going to change. It's not that I am not concerned about elimination, it's that the process is so long, that it's already more-- Yeah, that's good enough for me. I no longer feel that if we are serious about making a change. No. One day I thought it could be done. Moderator (00:22:09): Why do you feel this way?

G3: J (00:22:10): Why, how many years? 14, 27 years old. Ridiculous. At this time, nothing.

Moderator (00:22:18): Who has promised to do something?

G3: J (00:22:20): Everybody, politicians, activists, people. When I was little, now that you say, "That girl is very smart," I felt very smart. I told my mom, "I want to be a politician". I was dipping my feet in. Disappointed. That's why immigration, everything, I put down on everything, because they're not going to change abortion. I really don't feel that we are in control. To worry, I worry right now about mayonnaise, my rent, because it's something just like that.

G3: E (00:23:02): Because it does affect you, it's something that affects you personally.

G3: J (00:23:04): In everything. Regarding abortion, it has affected me. Racism. I hope it's heard, I don't know if they're recording well, but believe me, racism all the time. Crime, I live in a very ugly place, at 36th and U, which is terrible. Believe me, everything, everything. Migration, my mom, my dad. Don't think that I don't, but I do feel that...

G3: E (00:23:44) : Because I have seen it especially with my mom, cleaning houses, and how they talk to her. I tell her, "Leave that house, people are not good to you, you are getting paid a very low price for the things they want you to do." Not only that, when we are speaking Spanish in the store. Even at my job, teachers who hear students sometimes say something. One hears everything, it's something very personal, because of the color of the skin, unfortunately, but also because of the Spanish I've told my sister, "I look forward to the day that someone tells me in a store, 'You must not speak Spanish,' because then I'm going to let them know what's on my mind." Since we are so close to the border, I see it also with immigration itself. When I got the papers I had to go to Juárez and back. They treated us the worst. Immigrants themselves, the girl being Latina, who was reading my profile, were also very rude. The person who was with me asked for her papers just because of the color of her skin and she had her U.S. passport. It's everything, how they talk to you. The immigrants in the U.S. Consulate in México behaved better than those here.

G3: VR (00:25:10): Yes. My dad is a little darker than me. I've always seen how people see him, how people treat him. I've also had female coworkers-- I used to work in nonprofits and how white people who say, "We're here to help brown and black kids." That is not a way to communicate, because the work was to help all the children.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

I also even, even, had a coworker who had children with several men. One was tanned and said, "Your skin looks dirty." Listening to that kind of stuff-- Same, I'm brown, so I've been able to see and feel that too.

Moderator (00:25:55): Is this racism felt new or is it something that has been felt for a long time or how do you see it?

G3: VR (00:26:04): It has always existed in the Latin community. My mom would even tell me, "Mija, you have to marry a blue-eyed blonde, because you have to improve the race." I would say, "Look who you married".

G3: VR (00:26:20): In the Latin community there has always been that the lighter the complexion, the better they treat the person.

G3: V (00:26:28): It's always been there, but today, I'm going to say it, Trump made it more so, that it's okay for people to be racist. It has always existed, as you said, but now people think they are too liberal to express themselves.



## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

The news that participants are consuming is being delivered to them through news aggregates or social media. They are delivered headlines and then select stories that interest them. One participant described the news on Facebook as well written and trustworthy, and it consists of links to other sources. Facebook was described as providing both local and national news. TikTok was not seen as a valuable source of real news.

G3: VR (00:29:14): I like to read the news. On NBC15 I follow and they send daily emails with the news and I really like to read it, but also on social media.

Moderator (00:29:29): Is that NBC an app of theirs?

G3: VR (00:29:33): It is the Newsletter. Every day they send top stories.

Moderator (00:29:37): Emails that go out all over. There they put you what are the stories plus-- do you just read it there, or do they have video as well or what's it like?

G3: VR (00:29:49): It depends on the story. Facebook, Instagram and I follow local, national news pages and that's where I get information.

Moderator (00:30:02): G3: N, where do you get your news?

G3: N (00:30:14): If you go to Facebook, below is like a newspaper

Moderator (00:30:18): Yes?

G3: N (00:30:20): Yes. That's where they tell me the news more-I say it more solidly. I mean, it's not a house. These are well-written articles-

Moderator (00:30:33): As news feed.

G3: N (00:30:34): -but they are well written. They have improved a lot.

Moderator (00:30:40): Are they people or are they--?

G3: N (00:30:42): No, they are articles, like the Washington Post and such. Because I do like Tik Tok, but I feel like Tik Tok sometimes is more gossip. I feel right now that if I really want to read the news, that's where I go.

Moderator (00:30:58): On Facebook?

G3: N (00:30:59): Yes.

Moderator (00:31:00): Do they have newspaper links there or don't they? Some of the news you're consuming is-

G3: N (00:31:09): Yes. For example, they have the newspaper down there, the newspaper, then there it gives you all the stories and from there you go to the story you want to read.

G3: J (00:31:33): I like to watch FOX 10 in the morning.

Moderator (00:31:36): It's local, isn't it?

G3: J (00:31:37): Yes. I look at it from the morning when I get up, change the kids and in the morning, when I look, I really like it. I have an Android, the phone is ridiculous, if you put it on the left they have articles and there every day they bring up that you just refresh, articles. Tik Tok, I feel like the news there is not the news, but the things that people want to make important, that's the-- Like right now they're, if they don't want you to go eat at Subway on this corner, it gets on Tik Tok the person, "Look, it's filthy," and it goes viral the video and that's how they figure it out. Not necessarily big news.

G3: V (00:34:08): Me, Facebook.

Moderator (00:34:09): On Facebook too?

G3: V (00:34:10): Also, yes. Because it's national and then there's local, too, you can toggle whether you want to see national or local in there.

Moderator (00:34:19): Which one do you look at?

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

G3: V (00:34:22): Both.

Moderator (00:34:22): Both of them?

G3: V (00:34:23): Yes, but also my husband is a fan of CNN, all day long, from the time he gets up until he goes to sleep, I'm listening to it, but it's not what I want to do.

Moderator (00:34:34): Why CNN?

G3: V (00:34:35): I don't know. Since Trump came in he has been listening to the news. I tell him, "You drive me crazy."

Moderator (00:34:44): Do you have confidence in Facebook when you're--?

G3: V (00:34:47): Yes, it is an article, as she said. It's like the Washington Post, Fox News. It's not like something that is written, it comes from a reliable source.

G3: VR (00:41:27): Apple does have the news application. There, when one opens it and starts it, it asks one what kind of news one wants to see, what newspapers or what news channels one prefers.

Moderator (00:41:41): How interesting.

G3: E (00:41:43): What are your interests?

G3: VR (00:41:45): That's where you put it. Yes, when you get to-- there's a section, it's not the main section, but if you go to the right, the news comes up there and you press it if you want to read it.

Participants are following political figures on social media. One participant shared that she used to follow Biden on social media but then put him on mute because he was posting things she did not agree with. Another said they preferred Instagram over Facebook because they enjoyed the photographs more.

Moderator (00:34:57): Do you follow politicians or so or so on your Facebook pages? It says "Following", and, do you follow people, like this, politicians, or not?

G3: V (00:35:10): Yes, but I put them on mute.

Moderator (00:35:10): Which ones?

G3: V (00:35:13): Biden, I was following him for a while, I put him on mute as well.

Moderator (00:35:17): Why did you put it on mute?

G3: V (00:35:18): Because sometimes what he posted I didn't agree

G3: VR (00:35:36): I do. The locals, too. Even from the legislative districts where I live, where my parents live, to inform me of what they say.

Moderator (00:35:48): Do you follow these people on Facebook?

G3: VR (00:35:49): Yes.

Moderator (00:35:53): On Instagram too?

G3: VR (00:35:53): Also on Instagram, yes.

Moderator (00:35:54): Also on Instagram and Facebook.

G3: VR (00:35:54): I prefer Instagram to Facebook.

Moderator (00:35:56): Why?

G3: VR (00:35:58): Instagram is faster, I feel like it's fast images and if they want to put something to read well it's pretty fast. It is short. So, since I don't have a lot of time because of other things that I'm involved in, then it's quick for me to read, see a quick picture and quickly read what they're saying.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

G3: N (00:38:53): What I like about Instagram is that you get the story and it tells you, if you want to read more, you have to go to their page and click on a bio, the story, and there's all the stories. I feel like they give you the option if you want to read more or find out more of the story, I don't feel like they're forcing it on me. I sometimes I say like ABC News or NBC,.

Participants who did not use social media, access news sources directly through apps. One shared that they felt they were losing brain cells by watching social media feeds.

G3: E (00:37:35): I have subscribed to the Washington Post. I don't have Facebook, I don't know what you're talking about.

G3: J (00:37:47): I don't have Facebook either.

G3: E (00:37:59): Instagram either. I do follow CNN, but I like to read more. Since I was a child I have loved to read and I think I read what I want to read. I see on Instagram more like videos and I think I lose brain cells sometimes. I like to read a lot. I've even got like National Geographic.

Moderator (00:38:21): Do you take that out on paper or is it on--?

G3: E (00:38:24): In paid applications. Also, newspapers from México in application, but I'm not really on social media

YouTube was not used for news, rather for entertainment like recipes, music, and television programing. Only one person mentioned using YouTube for news, and it was to learn about a breaking news event. Google news was a source of news where participants self-select news stories that interest them.

Moderator (00:39:46): What about YouTube? No one told me about YouTube. Do you use YouTube?

G3: N (00:39:51): Yes.

G3: E (00:39:52): Nothing else for desserts and things.

G3: V (00:39:55): YouTube has it all.

Moderator (00:39:57): Not so much news?

G3: E (00:39:59): No.

G3: J (00:40:00): Music.

Moderator (00:40:01): Music?

G3: J (00:40:02): YouTube, yes.

Moderator (00:40:02): YouTube.

G3: J (00:40:03): But it does no.

Moderator (00:40:04): But not so much news.

G3: N (00:40:05): Dr. Phil. I love watching Doctor Phil. Every day I follow Doctor Phil.

Moderator (00:40:09): On YouTube?

G3: N (00:40:11): Yes. You put, "Doctor Phil full episodes", put the month and you get them all.

Moderator (00:40:18): Do you use YouTube for the news?

G3: E (00:40:22): No.

G3: VR (00:40:23): No.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

G3: J (00:40:23): True, there is one that says, "YouTube News". It seems like I am remembering, but there is one, but I look at it in my head very-

Moderator (00:40:31): Google?

G3: N (00:40:35): If you open the Google page you get some stories.

Moderator (00:40:40): Do you read it or don't you read it?

G3: N (00:40:41): Sometimes they are interesting. If it grabs my attention or if I have time to read it, otherwise not

G3: V (00:40:47): Also.

Moderator (00:40:47): Do you see that too?

G3: E (00:40:48): In fact, we all use Google. When we go to search agent comes up Google like-

G3: N (00:40:52): I don't get it on the computer. If I put it in the phone, it comes out.

G3: V (00:40:57): In the App, the Google App.

Moderator (00:41:00): Google App?

G3: V (00:41:01): Yes. The Google App.

Several participants shared that they get breaking news from text messages to their cell phones. News topics ranged from immigration raids to school shootings. Whisper networks

Moderator (00:42:03): If there is something that happens at the last minute, breaking news, how are you going to find out about something that happens that way of breaking news, as they say?

G3: V (00:42:27): A text message.

G3: J (00:42:30): I don't know if you remember when they were doing raids, which by text messages is how people were letting people know. "Don't go to 32nd and (unintelligible 00:42:37) because there is a migration." I remember we used to get the breaking news on the phone by text message.

G3: N (00:42:44): Really? I don't think I remember.

G3: J (00:42:49): In 2009. Yeah, because there's a man who sees the high school and they were all there, "Don't go over there, because there are raids." In the car washes, they were taking all the people from the car washes.

G3: N (00:42:59): I don't remember that I got a text message. If something happens like that, internationally, because I already know someone is going to give their opinion. As I work at Phoenix Union, there was just something with a gun at Centro High School and I'm really busy right now. The beginning of the year is always very busy. You cannot even go to the bathroom because you're so busy. I got on YouTube and put in, "Centro High School," and boom, there it came out.

Participants shared that they don't use Twitter because they don't like it or don't understand it.

Moderator (00:43:56): No one has said anything to me about Twitter.

G3: N (00:43:59): I don't like Twitter.

G3: E (00:44:01): I don't understand Twitter.

G3: J (00:44:01): I never understood it.

G3: N (00:44:04): From time to time I just get into it, but it doesn't attract my attention, I don't like it. I don't understand it.

G3: VR (00:44:12): I know a lot of politicians use it, but I don't understand it.

G3: E (00:44:14): Many politicians, yes.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

These participants were children of immigrants or immigrants themselves. They believed that good citizens vote. This is mentioned by several participants. They also shared that good citizens are involved in their community, help others, and ask questions to better understand things.

G3: VR (00:45:04) : First of all as citizens, let's say that in legal terms we have the right to vote. My parents went through the immigration process. My dad was able to receive his residency because of the amnesty that passed in the 80s. He fixed his situation, he fixed mom's and since they became citizens they always, always vote. For me it was something that I grew up with, that you have to get involved, educated and aware for the welfare of the whole community.

Moderator (00:45:40) : Okay. Anyone else? What else? Vote? Do you agree with what G3: VR says? Yes?

G3: E (00:45:46) : Yes, for me also to be a volunteer. I like to volunteer too, a lot like we used to do with my family on (unintelligible 00:45:55) We would take boxes of food to people who needed it and a person who needs it doesn't mean they are poor. A person who is in a difficult situation and needs temporary help. I also like to help home shelters, animals. Get to know your neighbors as well. I like to talk with the neighbors, too. Not gossip, but "How are you?", things like that.

Moderator (00:46:21) : Things like that? This side, what makes a good citizen?

G3: J (00:46:26) : I feel you are asking. I was taught in an English class. The teacher said, "A good citizen. A good citizen asks why. No, they just say, "Oh, let's just go over there and stay there. You have to ask, why?" Mr., "If you really are a patriot". They just said, "Ask, what's going on? Just let things happen. You have to always ask why. I don't know, that got so much in my head that I don't go to that anymore.

Moderator (00:47:10) : G3: V, what do you think about that?

G3: V (00:47:11) : I thought about voting too when you asked.

G3: N (00:47:23) : Yes, voting is very important, but when I heard you say, "Good citizen." For example, I try to be a good citizen, I always take care of my neighbors, I have been poor and thanks to them that gives me a very good life.

I never forget about people, that I feel that people citizens should always help other people where you were. Don't forget where you came from, where you arrived.

Always try to encourage other people to improve as you did. To me that's being a good citizen, that's how I felt it or how I saw it when you said that.

One participant described protest as important to being a good citizen. They shared that if one doesn't stand up for injustice, then they are part of it.

Moderator (00:48:12): Protests. Does anyone who is a good citizen participate in protests?

G3: VR (00:48:22) : Yes, I think so. Protests don't have to be violent. Unfortunately here in Phoenix we have I think the most violent police in the country. Phoenix department and that's why they've become violent protests, but I would always go. When I was in college I always participated, now not so much because the time, you have to go to work tomorrow. You can't stay that long, but yes, I think it's important to get involved. Not just--Definitely be a volunteer, definitely serve the community, help the neighbors, but do get involved. I grew up with my dad there telling me that if you see an injustice and you do nothing, you are part of the injustice.



## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

One participant shared that the first time she voted was to vote against Donald Trump and she displayed a Biden sign in her yard because her neighbor was a Trump supporter. Another shared that they voted because they were drawn to Obama and his message of change. The message of change resonated with them.

Moderator (00:51:20) : License, don't you remember? G3: E, don't you remember?

G3: E (00:51:23) : When I became a citizen.

Moderator (00:51:24) : At that time, when you were doing your-

G3: E (00:51:26) : They put the paper on you, and it's something I wanted to do, because I would always see my younger sister who would get to her and not vote. That is, for her it was always given, because she was born here. It cost me almost \$12,000, of course I was going to vote. My first election was against Trump, I voted against him. Yeah, when I was able to buy signs for the house, when Trump tries to run for re-election, I told my mom, "I'm going to buy Biden signs, because I paid a lot of money not to give my opinion", yeah. Especially that my neighbor is a Trump supporter.

Moderator (00:52:32) : Are there other elections where there's something that encourages them to go vote? Can you tell me a little about it? Could she be the same as G3: E? Maybe it's the opposite of G3: E, you supported voting against Biden. Can you tell me a little bit of a story about...?

G3: J (00:52:55) : Obama, when he was just starting Obama (unintelligible 00:52:58) and, you looked at the billboards, "Change," "Change." It was there, wasn't it? I wanted to vote, it was never given to me, with all due respect. That was it, whatever. When that of change, that finally there's going to be something different, you just see a white man and a sitting there, I wanted to vote. It was one of the first times I had the desire to.

One participant shared that she voted for Trump when he first ran, but then changed her vote in his re-election. They shared that they had lost friendships because of their vote for Trump. They voted for no one in Trump's re-election.

Moderator (00:53:37) : What encouraged you to vote for Trump and Biden?

G3: J (00:53:40) : I don't like Trump. In other words, simply.

G3: N (00:53:43) : I voted for Trump, the first time.

Moderator (00:53:45) : The first time?

G3: N (00:53:45) : I gave him the chance, but he blew it so ugly and I, "No, no, no, no." So, I went and voted for Biden.

Moderator (00:53:51) : Why did you give him the chance? Why? What did you feel?

G3: N (00:53:52) : Because I was tired of all the corruption, I thought of somebody who wasn't in politics, somebody that--I thought I had good business. Now the wholeThe truth is coming out, but I just wanted a change. A change, that's all I wanted The four years that we gave him were horrible, so I said, "No." Me and My husband votes, we always vote together. Yes, we voted by mail, but one time we went to vote together, voted, came out and then said, "Who did you vote for?". My husband and I don't talk about it, not at all. We don't talk about politics or anything. People find it very strange that we're going to vote and we don't discuss who, who we vote for. Until we vote.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

Moderator (00:54:41) : Already after?

G3: N (00:54:42) : Yes.

G3: J (00:54:44) : Because you have different opinions?

G3: N (00:54:45) : Yes.

G3: J (00:54:47) : Do you usually fight?

G3: N (00:54:48) : Another quarrel. Because I voted for Trump the first time, he told all the people. I said, "What? Do you want me to get shot or what do you want?". I have friends who stopped talking to me, I say, "It's my right as an American." I'm not-- I'm not judging you for your life or who you sleep with, what you do or whatever. That's you being American. It went wrong enough for me. I felt--I say, "Why are people making me feel bad about the decision that I made as an American, right?"

G3: E (00:55:21) : Did they give you the opportunity to ask why?

(00:55:23) G3: N: No. Angry. I felt the country was very excited, that election was very emotional.

Moderator (00:55:35) : The first?

G3: N (00:55:35) : Yes.

Moderator (00:55:38) : In the second one you did not vote?

G3: N (00:55:40) : I did not vote for anyone. That's where I learned and I'm going for nothing.

A participant shared that the November elections were important because of a proposition on the ballot that would affect college tuition. The Proposition would provide in-state college tuition for DREAMERs.

G3: VR (00:56:12) : I tell you the truth, as these upcoming elections are very important.

Moderator (00:56:16) : November? This one? In general?

G3: VR (00:56:17) : Yes.

Moderator (00:56:19) : What is motivating you right now to vote in--?

G3: VR (00:56:22) : Certain propositions. Proposition 308, super-important so that all Students graduating from an Arizona high school can pay the same.

Moderator (00:56:35) : Is that going to be on the (unintelligible 00:56:36)?

G3: VR (00:56:38) : The 308. Yes, right now they are collecting signatures also to stop the school vouchers.

G3: N (00:56:46) : They had already voted no. The citizens voted no four years ago and Tulsi turned it over.

G3: E (00:56:53) : It's like thinking a little bit about what you said earlier, that money is being taken away from public schools. It is giving...

G3: N (00:56:59) : They want to hang public schools. There will come a point where a public school will only have poor children and children in wheelchairs. That's what it's going to be. That's racism, but to me it's racism, the ugliest thing that can happen to a student. For me.

Participants viewed the budget cuts of public school funds as a form of racism against poor and disabled children. They see the vouchers as helping the children of the rich millionaires who never had their children in public schools to begin with.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

G3: E (00:56:53) : It's like thinking a little bit about what you said earlier, that money is being taken away from public schools. It is giving...

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G3: E (00:57:17) : The people who are being helped with these vouchers, are more of the people who have never been to public school.

G3: N (00:57:25) : It is for millionaires, for those schools.

G3: E (00:57:25) : That the children are in private school.

G3: VR (00:57:27) : 70% of the people who use those vouchers, have never sent their children to a public school.

G3: N (00:57:33) : They become millionaires with the money.

G3: E (00:57:35) : They are using these vouchers as a discount to send their children to school.

G3: VR (00:57:40) : They're people who say, "I teach my kids from home," and They use it later to buy a freezer or whatever else.

G3: E (00:57:47) : Everything is given openly. My sister sent a text to our family group. She said to my other sister, "Look, you can use this voucher." I didn't say anything, because if I say anything already it's because, "G3: E got mad," or, "G3: E is talking about politics again." When my sister sent that, it infuriated me because of the same thing, because of everything we just said.

Participants shared that they want to see the state turn Democrat so that the public schools will not lose funding. They believe that Democratic leadership will keep the public schools properly funded. One participant shared that the public is misinformed about public schools, they think Charter Schools are helpful, but they are actually hurting student performance.

G3: VR (00:58:24) : Of the politicians themselves, who's-- Right now minimum for the Democrats is very important, because there are people like the one who's for Secretary of State, from the Republicans, that if he gets in he's going to change things, he's going to--

G3: N (00:58:40) : That state needs to change Democrat, otherwise the schools are going to go to waste. We have to change the state to blue, everything completely.

(00:58:58) G3: V: Of voting, I say, "Yes, of course." Those are the reasons I also vote, to see a change, something I don't agree with or someone I don't like. About the voucher, I think there's a lot of people misinformed, because I was hearing, "Oh, this charter school is great, this charter school is great. It's like a private school education," I moved my kids. I said, "My child has graduated. You take all school classes, AP classes, all of that," but the GPA was not as high as if he had taken the AP classes in public school. You were told that this school is, "Charter school is great," but in the end they never explained that to you.

G3: J (00:59:45) : Besides, they give scholarships that other same high educator

G3: V (00:59:49) : At Prior GPA they take a public school.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

A participant shared she is voting in the next election simply to vote against Trump who claimed he had won Arizona even though he actually lost. They want to vote to prove that he really did lose the election. Another participant noted that there is a proposition on the ballot requiring ID to vote, and they supported this law believing it would make the elections more secure.

G3: V (01:00:44) : To me, I would say that since Trump has so long said that Arizona, (unintelligible 01:00:52) He didn't really win, but he's fighting and fighting. For me it's I'm going to vote again, because I want to tell you that yes it was the first time.

G3: N (01:01:05) : Also for this reason, there is another proposition. They're trying to, when you go to vote–

G3: J (01:01:12) : The ID.

G3: N (01:01:13) : The ID. That's what I say, for my eight years, how do you ask us...? I feel that when you vote there is not enough identification or enough assurance that you are voting. It's you, not a little old man who's already dead, you know what I mean? It's something that--I feel like the proposal is going to change that. I think that's a good thing.

The group described the Democratic Party as standing up for all, including Latinos. They also see the party helping people and supporting issues like health care and education. They generally view the Democratic Party in a positive light and as change for the better. Fighting to lower prescription drug costs was also noted.

Moderator (01:03:45) : Okay. I want to discuss a little bit of what you wrote. What did you write about the Democratic Party? G3: VR, let's start with you. What did you put?

G3: VR (01:04:00) : My father always told me, but the party of the people.

Moderator (01:04:02) : Of the people, okay. What does that mean to you?

G3: VR (01:04:06) : Which in itself, is the party that sees for the good of all, especially of the Latins, of the minorities. In itself, as the working man.

Moderator (01:04:18) : G3: E, what did you put on the bottom?

G3: E (01:04:20) : The same. Fight for what is fair for citizens.

Moderator (01:04:18) : G3: E, what did you put on the bottom?

G3: E (01:04:20) : The same. Fight for what is fair for citizens.

G3: E (01:04:26) : If I could choose, it would be the socialist Don Bernie (unintelligible 01:04:28)

G3: E (01:04:31) : Yes, he can fight for the citizens, for what is right.

Moderator (01:04:35) : When you say, "Fight For," as of what? As an example of what?

G3: E (01:04:39) : Like having all the rights-- Of women having right over body, education, healthcare, all that.

Moderator (01:04:49) : G3: V, what did you put up to the democrat?

G3: V (01:04:52) : Also, for middle class people, helping people with healthcare, college.

Moderator (01:04:59) : Same. Of people, you say. G3: J, what did you put in it?

G3: J (01:05:06) : I also put change in it and it is moderately change for most of the people.

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

Moderator (01:05:12) : I guess you say change for the better.

G3: J (01:05:15) : Yes, change for most.

Moderator (01:05:17) : Better change.

G3: J (01:05:18) : Yes. They're in I guess power, but if not-- Yes, for good.

G3: N (01:05:35) : They want to help the school, help the people, help the students. I think right now they're also trying to pass a law or something, where they stop so much-- Like the pharmaceutical companies they raise the price of drugs somewhat ridiculously like insulin, I feel that the Democrats are really trying to help people. They want to help the school, help the people, help the students. I think right now they're also trying to pass a law or something, where they stop so much-- Like the pharmaceutical companies they raise the price of drugs somewhat ridiculously like insulin, I feel that the Democrats are really trying to help people.

Moderator (01:06:00) : Have you noticed that (unintelligible 01:06:02) they are helping with the price of insulin?

G3: N (01:06:05) : They're trying, because the price of insulin they've raised it 200%, something ridiculous, something like that I understood and that it doesn't cost that much. Just because the pharmaceutical companies know that a diabetic needs insulin, they are charging something ridiculous. (unintelligible 01:06:23)

The Republican Party was viewed as the party of rich, White racist men, who put business interest ahead of the people. They are also perceived as keeping Democrats from accomplishing things.

Moderator (01:06:26) : What did you say about the Republican party? I start with you.

G3: N (01:06:30) : I put, "A bunch of old white guys who just want to get rich."

What I put first is what I think. When they talk to me about Republicans, that's what I think.

G3: J (01:06:39) : I put, "Americans. Money. Large businesses. 1%.

Moderator (01:06:47) : G3: V.

G3: V (01:06:49) : "For rich people only. They only care about millionaires and say no to all proposals".

G3: N (01:06:59) : To all propositions they are saying, "No".

G3: V (01:07:02) : I mean, shutting down anything that says the democrats trying to pass, always the democrats have to not. Not having control of the democrats.

Moderator (01:07:16) : G3: E, what did you put in it?

G3: E (01:07:17) : "Religion. Old-fashioned beauties. Racists. White people".

G3: VR (01:07:38) : I put, "A party of cheaters who only see for the interests of people with money".

Conservatism was primarily associated with the Republican Party, and was described as religious, very traditional, and the party of "no." While liberalism was associated with freedom.



## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

G3: VR (01:08:09) : Conservative to me is synonymous with Republican and liberal is synonymous with Democrat, but there's also a conservative Democrat or a liberal Republican, but to me it's synonymous

Moderator (01:08:23) : What are the qualifications or what are the characteristics What are the qualifications or what are the characteristics What does that mean, to be conservative?

G3: J (01:08:34) : What G3: V said, "All say no." No to abortion, no to this, no to the other. A conservative.

G3: E (01:08:41): Very traditional.

G3: J (01:08:42): Religion.

G3: E (01:08:44): It is that they are religious or hide behind religion.

Moderator (01:08:50): Liberal, what's that?

G3: J (01:08:52): The opposite, the other thing.

G3: E (01:08:56): To me, if G3: N wants to dress one way, she has that freedom, most have that freedom. If G3: J wants to sell things out there, she's free to do so, but...

G3: J (01:09:10): That's what a conservative would tell you, "No, you're like that. No, you don't come here. Not that."

G3: N (01:09:14): They're ancient, they kind of think that only a marriage should be only between the woman and the man and if your husband beats you or starts another family you should still be married, something like that. Yes, it's something-- Even if it hurts you, you have to follow this.

There was consensus that the Democratic Party does more for Hispanics than the Republican party. And one participant described republicans as helping each other and told the story of Donald Trump's father giving him a million dollars to start his business. They feel the Republican party is disconnected.

Moderator (01:11:15): Are the Democrats doing more than the Republicans?

G3: N (01:11:18): Yes.

G3: VR (01:11:19): Yes, a thousand times.

G3: J (01:11:21): We don't fit in your little square of Republicans. To us Republicans they don't say, "Come," because I don't have money. (unintelligible 01:11:29) that my dad told me, "He loaned me \$1 million to get started," and he says it like-

G3: E (01:11:34): A small loan.

G3: J (01:11:34): -yes, a small loan, as if it were nothing. We all have a million dollars that we're going to borrow from our dad to start our business.

G3: N (01:11:42): I just need \$1 million and that's it, I'm out.

G3: J (01:11:45): Things weren't easy, you had to pay your father. These are things that if I don't have that, to me they don't receive me, but to his same people, the Republican party if he says to them, "Come." I feel that we, let's say from these tables, we do more with the democrats because we are more....

## FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

### SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

Participants shared that they like for candidates to blockwalk and go out into the community and talk to voters. They feel better connected to the candidates when they do this.

G3: E (01:13:50): Yes and that's the important thing for me, not to have so many volunteers. Yes, having people behind you, but you as a person, not just sending volunteers. You go to the street and also knock on doors.

G3: J (01:14:03): Rubén Gallegos went to my mom and his wife's house, she goes to my mom's house, because my mom used to go to the neighborhood watch police a lot, officers come and have coffee with my mom. Mr. Ruben Gallegos tells my mom, "I'm coming, I don't know what". I've never crossed paths with him, but he arrives at my mom's house, as you say. My mom when she goes out, my mom to everybody, "Gallegos helps us," because he went to the house instead of sending a third person.