

UNLOCKING THE HISPANIC VOTE

FOCUS GROUP REPORT

Georgia



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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 Georgia 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 Nevada state-wide survey (also conducted by Emerson College Polling Center) and is part of a larger study that will investigate these same key areas in a total of six U.S. states with significant Hispanic populations.

Emerson College Polling Team

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Methodology

Three focus groups of participants of Hispanic ethnicity were conducted in Atlanta Georgia in August 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 using a participant screener. Participants were given a \$125 incentive to take part in the registered voters focus groups. The study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Emerson College.

KEY FINDINGS



SECTION 1: POLICY ISSUES

- Inflation and rising costs were major concerns for several participants. The price of gas, food, rent, and utilities was among the things most discussed. Participants shared that even though the price of gas is decreasing, the price is still higher than it was a year ago. They blame corporations and the government for the overall higher cost of goods.
- Participants expressed concern about rising housing costs and their ability to make ends meet, especially for those moving back into the urban core. They shared that property values have been steadily rising and there was concern that working people and individuals on a fixed income would not be able to afford to stay in their homes.
- Participants see the recent Roe vs. Wade decision as ultimately having a negative effect on women's health and see the life of the mother as an important factor in the abortion debate. On the issue of abortion itself, it was expressed by several in the group that abortions should remain legal for cases of rape or if the fetus would not survive or suffer. One female participant feels it is not right that the government would make such important choices for women.
- While immigration was not rated as the most important issue among the majority, several discussed its importance to them because they knew someone who was undocumented and not able to get legal status. Many have a close and personal connection to the issue.
- Participants believe that racism has always been an issue, but it wasn't until Trump entered the political landscape that individuals became more vocal in their racist rhetoric. They shared that this racist tension was not limited to White and Black. Racism against Latinos and other minority communities was cited as well.
- Most participants agree that crime is a major issue and they have seen crime rising in their communities, including their local shopping mall. One participant believed that the increase in crime was associated with the Black Lives Matter movement, claiming it had emboldened certain people of color and given them a "pass" to commit crimes. Another blamed the rise in crime on inflation and fewer police.

KEY FINDINGS



SECTION 2: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

- Most participants are consuming news that is delivered to them via smartphones on their feeds within their social media apps. They self-select news stories that interest them. Content appears on their feeds either through promoted ads or from content shared by friends. Social media is a major source of news even for non-registered citizens who still consume political news and follow political personalities on social media. The Spanish-speaking group consumes news in Spanish with a focus on both the United States and foreign countries.
- Several participants shared that they limit the amount of news they consume because it is too negative and depresses them. They either limit the time spent watching or only search on the internet for stories that interest them.
- Participants shared that they use apps on their phones that connect them to their neighbors where they can monitor what is happening around them. They specifically mentioned one called Citizen as one that is used for this purpose. The NextDoor social media app was also described positively and as a way to keep abreast with what is happening in their own neighborhood especially as it relates to crime.
- Paid news content is not something that participants access. Instead, they have discovered ways around news online paywalls by Googling the story or accessing a revised version of the content for free.
- Google was mentioned as a trusted source used to get more information about a story in the news. Participants mentioned getting emails of news that include local news events.
- Overall, there appeared to be a distrust of news media, with differing opinions on how the media present stories. Some participants say all the news channels report the exact same story the same way. To others, news stations don't cover complete stories so consumers have to visit multiple news sources to get a complete account of what happened.
- YouTube is popular and widely used. However, there were mixed attitudes about YouTube, with one participant believing that the platform is highly monitored resulting in a large amount of censoring. Another participant believed that if they use the platform they will get delivered online ads about the topics they searched. YouTube was also described as entertaining, as a place where news stations can get accessed along with independent content creators.

KEY FINDINGS



SECTION 3: CIVIC ATTITUDES

- Participants believe that part of being a good citizen is to work and contribute to society. They also note that good citizens are simply good people who take care of others in the community. As Latinos they see themselves connected to both family and community, which is partially how they view the role of being a good citizen. Quality family time was important and was described as sitting at the kitchen table at mealtime and not pulling out the cell phone. Technology was described as a threat to families.
- Participants shared that they learn about civic responsibilities from their families. One participant said that their mother was active in grassroots organizing and taught her the importance of voting.
- Participants often discussed voter suppression or the disenfranchisement of voters in Georgia. They believe that closing or moving poll sites or long lines at the polls are some examples given of how people of color are being disenfranchised. Some had distrusted the electoral process because of systemic voter suppression. One participant described voting as confusing and they were uncertain about the entire process.
- Participants see a strong relationship between government and big business, with politicians being accountable to corporations rather than voters.
- Participants shared frustration about voting in Georgia. Access to voting was believed to be unequal, with people living in lower-income areas getting less access. One participant, who ranked voting as their most important issue, noted that access to voting varied from county to county and believed this was a form of voter suppression. Another participant believed that the changing of polling site locations was contributing to voter confusion and keeping people from voting.
- A participant in the non-registered believes that the gubernatorial election between Stacey Abrams and Brian Kemp was negatively affected by voting access inequities. They believe these inequities were done on purpose to keep Stacy Abrams from winning.

KEY FINDINGS



SECTION 4: POLITICS

- Participants share the feeling that the political environment changed in 2016. They blame Trump for changing the political landscape, making it more unpredictable and circus-like.
- Trump is viewed negatively when it comes to racism but some participants viewed his time in office positively because the economy was perceived to be better under his leadership. While Biden is described as not getting anything done and “deteriorating.”
- The Democratic Party brand is seen as moving away from its old brand of being for workers and the middle class and as a party of unity. It is now perceived as not caring for ordinary, working people. The Democratic Party is viewed as not being good at taking care of the economy nor good at business because they lack entrepreneurial spirit. The Democratic Party was described as not fulfilling the promises that were made on student loans, the economy, and immigration. Participants expressed disappointment in this inaction. Views of the parties are framed from their personal lived experiences.
- The Republican Party is viewed as old and out of touch with modern society. Trump is viewed as representing the Republican party with some calling him a racist and others describing him as a good businessman.
- Participants expressed disappointment that neither party has delivered on immigration reform. They feel this is an example of the parties ignoring Latino issues and concerns.
- Several expressed a cynical view of elected officials from both parties saying they use their position to enrich themselves. One participant said that elected politicians of both parties are more interested in serving themselves and corporations rather than their constituents.

A full-page background image of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there is a flat, sandy area. 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 of the image.

FULL REPORT

FULL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

On August 15 and 16, 2022, a total of three (3) focus groups were conducted in Atlanta, Georgia 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 Georgia state-wide survey (also conducted by Emerson College Polling Center) provided a foundation for this qualitative research project. Furthermore, this Georgia 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 focus groups were conducted at a professional focus group facility, Fieldwork Georgia, located in Atlanta, Georgia.

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

Participants were recruited by the facility and a recruiting firm using participant screeners (See Supplemental Materials) created for the project. Recruitment was conducted approximately two weeks prior to the groups taking place. An incentive of \$125 was offered to participants who met the criteria for 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, August 15, 2022, 5:30 pm – Hispanic Registered Voters (conducted in English) - 7 participants
- **Group 2** - Tuesday, August 16, 2022, 6:00 pm– Hispanic Non-Registered Citizens (conducted in English) - 4 participants
- **Group 3** - Monday, August 15, 2022, 7:30 pm – Hispanic Registered Voters (conducted in Spanish) - 7 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, August 15, 2022, 5:30 pm - Hispanic Registered Voters
(conducted in English)

- 5 female and 2 male
- Income range between \$20k - \$100k+
- Education: 1 some college, 6 college graduate
- One was from an English only speaking household, 3 were from a more English than Spanish speaking households, 1 was from a more Spanish than English speaking household, 2 were from households that spoke both languages equally
- All 7 were born in the United States

Hispanic Registered Voters with History of Voting Conducted in English

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Female	46	Panamanian	Republican	G1: L
Male	37	Venezuela	Democrat	G1: SN
Female	50	Puerto Rico	Democrat	G1: CN
Female	29	Mexican/Honduras	Democrat	G1: SE
Female	41	Mexico	Democrat	G1: CA
Male	39	Mexico	Democrat	G1: M
Female	38	Cuba	Independent	G1: SH
Female	46	Panamanian	Republican	G1: L

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, August 16, 2022, 6:00 pm – Hispanic Non-Registered Citizens (conducted in English)

- 2 female and 2 male
- Income range between \$40k - \$100k +
- Education: 1 college graduate, 2 post graduate, 1 did not indicate
- Three were from a more English than Spanish speaking household, 1 was from a household that spoke both languages equally
- Three participants were born outside the United States and 1 did not indicate

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Female	24	Mexican	Independent	G2: I
Male	18	Mexican	Democrat	G2: J
Female	35	Dominican	Republican	G2: S
Male	24	Panama	Republican	G2: R

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, August 15, 2022, 7:30 pm – Hispanic Registered Voters
(conducted in Spanish)

- 5 female and 2 male
- Income range between less than \$10k - \$100k
- Education: 4 some college, 3 college graduate
- Two participants were from a Spanish only speaking household, 4 were from a household that spoke both languages equally, and 1 was from a more English than Spanish speaking household
- Two were born in the United States, and 5 was born outside the United States

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

Inflation and rising costs were major concerns for several participants. The price of gas, food, rent, and utilities was among the things most discussed. Participants shared that even though the price of gas is decreasing, the price is still higher than it was a year ago. They blame corporations and the government for the overall higher cost of goods.

Participants expressed concern about rising housing costs and their ability to make ends meet, especially for those moving back into the urban core. They shared that property values have been steadily rising and there was concern that working people and individuals on a fixed income would not be able to afford to stay in their homes.

Participants see the recent Roe vs. Wade decision as ultimately having a negative effect on women's health and see the life of the mother as an important factor in the abortion debate. On the issue of abortion itself, it was expressed by several in the group that abortions should remain legal for cases of rape or if the fetus would not survive or suffer. One female participant feels it is not right that the government would make such important choices for women.

While immigration was not rated as the most important issue among the majority, several discussed its importance to them because they knew someone who was undocumented and not able to get legal status. Many have a close and personal connection to the issue.

Participants believe that racism has always been an issue, but it wasn't until Trump entered the political landscape that individuals became more vocal in their racist rhetoric. They shared that this racist tension was not limited to White and Black. Racism against Latinos and other minority communities was cited as well.

Most participants agree that crime is a major issue and they have seen crime rising in their communities, including their local shopping mall. One participant believed that the increase in crime was associated with the Black Lives Matter movement, claiming it had emboldened certain people of color and given them a "pass" to commit crimes. Another blamed the rise in crime on inflation and fewer police.

KEY FINDINGS

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Most participants are consuming news that is delivered to them via smartphones on their feeds within their social media apps. They self-select news stories that interest them. Content appears on their feeds either through promoted ads or from content shared by friends. Social media is a major source of news even for non-registered citizens who still consume political news and follow political personalities on social media. The Spanish-speaking group consumes news in Spanish with a focus on both the United States and foreign countries.

Several participants shared that they limit the amount of news they consume because it is too negative and depresses them. They either limit the time spent watching or only search on the internet for stories that interest them.

Participants shared that they use apps on their phones that connect them to their neighbors where they can monitor what is happening around them. They specifically mentioned one called Citizen as one that is used for this purpose. The NextDoor social media app was also described positively and as a way to keep abreast with what is happening in their own neighborhood especially as it relates to crime.

Paid news content is not something that participants access. Instead, they have discovered ways around news online paywalls by Googling the story or accessing a revised version of content for free.

Google was mentioned as a trusted source used to get more information about a story in the news. Participants mentioned getting emails of news that include local news events.

Overall, there appeared to be a distrust of news media, with differing opinions on how the media present stories. Some participants say all the news channels report the exact same story the same way. To others, news stations don't cover complete stories so consumers have to visit multiple news sources to get a complete account of what happened.

YouTube is popular and widely used. However, there were mixed attitudes about YouTube, with one participant believing that the platform is highly monitored resulting in a large amount of censoring. Another participant believed that if they use the platform they will get delivered online ads about the topics they searched. YouTube was also described as entertaining, as a place where news stations can get accessed along with independent content creators.

KEY FINDINGS

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Participants believe that part of being a good citizen is to work and contribute to society. They also note that good citizens are simply good people who take care of others in the community. As Latinos they see themselves connected to both family and community, which is partially how they view the role of being a good citizen. Quality family time was important and was described as sitting at the kitchen table at mealtime and not pulling out the cell phone. Technology was described as a threat to families.

Participants shared that they learn about civic responsibilities from their families. One participant said that their mother was active in grassroots organizing and taught her the importance of voting. Participants often discussed voter suppression or the disenfranchisement of voters in Georgia. They believe that closing or moving poll sites or long lines at the polls are some examples given of how people of color are being disenfranchised. Some had distrusted the electoral process because of systemic voter suppression. One participant described voting as confusing and they were uncertain about the entire process.

Participants see a strong relationship between government and big business, with politicians being accountable to corporations rather than voters.

Participants shared frustration about voting in Georgia. Access to voting was believed to be unequal, with people living in lower-income areas getting less access. One participant, who ranked voting as their most important issue, noted that access to voting varied from county to county and believed this was a form of voter suppression. Another participant believed that the changing of polling site locations was contributing to voter confusion and keeping people from voting.

A participant in the non-registered believes that the gubernatorial election between Stacey Abrams and Brian Kemp was negatively affected by voting access inequities. They believe these inequities were done on purpose to keep Stacy Abrams from winning.

KEY FINDINGS

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

Participants share the feeling that the political environment changed in 2016. They blame Trump for changing the political landscape, making it more unpredictable and circus-like.

Trump is viewed negatively when it comes to racism but some participants viewed his time in office positively because the economy was perceived to be better under his leadership. While Biden is described as not getting anything done and “deteriorating.”

The Democratic Party brand is seen as moving away from its old brand of being for workers and the middle class and as a party of unity. It is now perceived as not caring for ordinary, working people. The Democratic Party is viewed as not being good at taking care of the economy nor good at business because they lack entrepreneurial spirit. The Democratic Party was described as not fulfilling the promises that were made on student loans, the economy, and immigration. Participants expressed disappointment in this inaction. Views of the parties are framed from their personal lived experiences. The Republican Party is viewed as old and out of touch with modern society. Trump is viewed as representing the Republican party with some calling him a racist and others describing him as a good businessman.

Participants expressed disappointment that neither party has delivered on immigration reform. They feel this is an example of the parties ignoring Latino issues and concerns. Several expressed a cynical view of elected officials from both parties saying they use their position to enrich themselves. One participant said that elected politicians of both parties are more interested in serving themselves and corporations rather than their constituents.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

Key Findings for Group 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Inflation and rising costs were major concerns for several participants. The price of gas, food, rent, and utilities was among the things most discussed. Participants shared that even though the price of gas is decreasing, the price is still higher than it was a year ago. They blame corporations and the government for the overall higher cost of goods.

Participants expressed concern about rising housing costs and their ability to make ends meet, especially for those moving back into the urban core. They shared that property values have been steadily rising and there was concern that working people and individuals on a fixed income would not be able to afford to stay in their homes.

Participants believe that the rising cost of housing is causing gentrification within their neighborhoods. They have experienced a shortage of housing stock which they feel is pushing buyers into areas where rich and poor are living side by side, and there is concern that this will eventually lead to pushing out working-class residents in low-income areas.

While rising rents are of great concern to the group, one participant expressed that instituting rent controls was un-American because individual property owners should have the right to do as they please. However, they believe that rising property taxes leaves landlords no choice but to raise rents which is also contributing to the rise in rental costs.

While there was a consensus not to have the government dictate whether or not a woman should have an abortion, several expressed that abortion should not be normalized as a birth control method. Other participants pushed back on the notion of abortion being used as birth control calling that a "misconception." It was expressed that educating children was important in preventing unwanted pregnancies.

While immigration was not rated as the most important issue, several discussed its importance to them because they knew someone who was undocumented and not able to get legal status. They have a close and personal connection to the issue.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Most participants are consuming news that is delivered to them via smartphones on their feeds within their social media apps. They self-select news stories that interest them. Content appears on their feeds either through promoted ads or from content shared by friends.

Several participants shared that they believe that their phones are listening to their conversations. One suggested that more political content would be delivered on their feed since they were engaged in a conversation about politics.

One participant believes that the different news agencies present the same news story differently. They chose to watch a particular network because of the flow and their presentation of the news.

Several participants shared that they limit the amount of news they consume because it is too negative and depresses them. They either limit the time spent watching or only search on the internet for stories that interest them.

Social media was described as a form of delivering the news in a fun and entertaining way. One participant liked the ability to select stories they liked on TikTok and swipe away stories they didn't like.

Participants shared that they use apps on their phones that connect them to their neighbors where they can monitor what is happening around them. They specifically mentioned one called Citizen as one that is used for this purpose. The NextDoor social media app was also described positively and as a way to keep abreast with what is happening in their own neighborhood especially as it relates to crime.

Paid news content was not something that participants access. Instead, they have discovered ways around news online paywalls by googling the story or accessing the content for free.

YouTube was described as entertaining, as a place where news stations can get accessed along with content creators. One participant noted that they like the comment sections underneath the videos where references and other info can be added.

Spanish language media was described as exaggerated with provocatively dressed news anchors that make the news less credible. The presentation of the news was described as overly dramatic, much like the telenovelas.

Those who use Twitter use it to follow political figures and news celebrities. Facebook and Instagram are used more to follow friends and family, with news content being delivered on their feeds.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Discussions about being a good citizen prompted one participant to discuss those in society who take advantage of social safety nets. They described people as playing the victim and taking PPP funds when they did not need them. They see themselves as hard-working as others as lazy people who take advantage of government programs.

Participants describe good citizens as those who help others, especially those who are in need, whether in day-to-day activities or assisting in voting. Helping others was described as an attribute of a good citizen.

Participants often discussed voter suppression or the disenfranchisement of voters in Georgia. Polls closing or moving or long lines are some examples given of how people of color are being disenfranchised.

Jury duty was described as annoying and a waste of time because many of the cases that go to court are seen as unimportant or frivolous.

One participant shared that they believed that good citizens concentrate on those things that affect the lives of people within their own community.

Participants learn about civic responsibilities from their family. One participant shared that their mother was active in grassroots organizing and taught her the importance of voting.

Participants shared frustration about voting in Georgia. Access to voting was believed to be unequal, with people living in lower-income areas getting less access. One participant, who ranked voting as their most important issue, noted that access to voting varied from county to county and believed this was a form of voter suppression. Another participant believed that the changing of polling site locations was contributing to voter confusion and keeping people from voting. They believe the gubernatorial election between Stacey Abrams and Brian Kemp was negatively affected by these inequities.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

Participants don't feel that the government is working for them.

Some participants shared that they believed in outside forces controlling prices and other aspects of government. While they did not call it a "deep state" they reference those in "power" manipulating the prices of goods.

One participant describes the Democratic party as nothing but broken promises. While they like what democrats offer, they prefer the straight forward honest approach of republicans.

Participants share the feeling that the political environment changed in 2016. They blame Trump for changing the political landscape, making it more unpredictable and circus-like.

One participant shared that they vote in all local elections while another admitted not knowing that a local election was taking place so they did not vote.

Some participants viewed the raid of Trump's Mar-o-Lago residence as a distraction from the fact that democrats have not delivered on promises made and from the party's own internal issues and other corruption and misdeeds. One participant commented that Trump was accidentally telling the truth regarding the paperwork Trump had taken.

One participant described the government's response to the coronavirus as gaslighting.

The Democratic party is viewed as not being good at taking care of the economy nor good at business because they lack entrepreneurial spirit.

The Democratic party brand is seen as moving away from its old brand of being for workers and the middle class and as a party of unity. It is now perceived as not caring for ordinary, working people.

One participant viewed the Democratic party as too liberal and even described it as socialist.

The Republican Party is viewed as old and out of touch with modern society.

There were mixed feelings as to whether or not President Biden was to blame for the rise in gas prices. One participant felt that the President was not to blame, while another felt he was because he closed the Keystone pipeline.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Inflation and rising costs were major concerns for several participants. The price of gas, food, rent, and utilities was among the things most discussed. Participants shared that even though the price of gas is decreasing, the price is still higher than it was a year ago. They blame corporations and the government for the overall higher cost of goods.

G1: SN (00:12:34):

Um, gas price is going up and the food price is going up. And then when, when stuff kinda might go down a little bit, but it won't go down to where it was before, that it'll like go, it['s] like two steps forward, one steps back type stuff. Gas price is a great example. It was at like \$4.50 a gallon or something. Now it's like three, \$3.50 a gallon which is great, but it's like the, you can't say [they're] lower gas prices. You're bringing them back to where they were. That's not to me... 'Cause they're lowering things. It almost feel[s] like they're gonna inflate stuff and then deflate it and then try to convince us, "Oh, yeah, we're, we're, we're lowering prices." When it's really not...

G1: CN (00:13:35):

Yeah, I agree. It's like we have no choice but to pay these prices because it's what it is. But then they come, like, like you said, with the gas. One week, it's \$4.50. The next week, it's \$3.50. Why did you go up to \$4.50 in the first place if you can always have kept it at \$3.50? Or whoever, you know, the government or the gas people or... I, I just feel like they don't have the right people negotiating. I don't know who the right people would be to negotiate these costs and stuff. Um, I know we had the issue of the prices had to go up because of the ports and the travel and the gas prices and all that. But it just doesn't sit well. Especially when you're unemployed and, and you have people you take care of, you can't afford to do certain things.

Moderator (00:14:45):

Mm-hmm. Aside from the food that, that you all mentioned, what are the costs you all see rising?

G1: SH (00:14:50):

Electricity, gas.

G1: SE (00:14:52):

Rent

Participants expressed concern about rising housing costs and their ability to make ends meet, especially for those moving back into the urban core. They shared that property values have been steadily rising and there was concern that working people and individuals on a fixed income would not be able to afford to stay in their homes.

G1: CA (00:18:00):

Um, so I live in the City of Atlanta. So I live, I wanna say, five minutes from the Beltline. I am, um, a homeowner. So I do see the effect of everyone will... Let's just say the majority are trying to go back to live in town. So you have you're in town living. And you have so little housing and everybody trying to come in. That, obviously, they're gonna increase the rents and obviously the properties. Um, there's hardly any homes for sale and the minute they do go for sale, they're gone that same day. I mean, there was a house next to me that went on the market on Friday, and it's already under contract. I mean, it's unbelievable.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

Moderator (00:18:49):

Is there anything that can be done about this by anyone?

G1: SN (00:18:54):

Um, well... Oh, sorry.

G1: CA (00:18:57):

I think so, I think so. I mean, I think, um, I think but I don't know who, you know. I don't know who. And it worries me because once the pr- once the hou- the houses are going up and so rent isn't... Rent for now is at \$2,400 to almost \$3,000, \$3,200, \$3,500, depending on the little, on the area that you're at. It worries me because my parents, um, they're homeowners, they're both retired. Um, so in the neighborhood that I live, you have a lot of, um, retired.

G1: CA (00:19:34):

So I worry about that per se and the property values going up to where they won't be able to pay the taxes, because they're both on a fixed income. And so, you know, I look at it and I'm like, "Okay, what was, you know, what are you paying this year? What are you gonna pay next year?" Um, and it's all based on property values. And mind you, they haven't done any work to their house but their property value is going up because everybody is building all around it.

G1: CA (00:20:00):

You know, you have people buying houses that were built in the '60s, '70s for \$499,000, half a million and you're like, "What the heck?" So this is downtown. I mean, this is literally Grant Park.

And it's unbelievable.

Participants believe that the rising cost of housing is causing gentrification within their neighborhoods. They have experienced a shortage of housing stock which they feel is pushing buyers into areas where rich and poor are living side by side, and there is concern that this will eventually lead to pushing out working-class residents in low-income areas.

G1: SE (00:20:14):

I have something to say on that. I have a friend in the Grant Park area and the, um, the house she used to live in, um, right up boulevard. Um, uh, the owner bought it for like \$100,000 some years ago. And then she sold it for \$500,000. And all they did is demolish it and built like a million-dollar home right on that same area. And then all of the neighbors... But then the house across the street is like, uh, just run down. Basically, like crack house across the street from the million-dollar home.

G1: CA (00:20:44):

Yeah, yeah. I mean, it's, it's unbelievable. I mean, my house is... You know, I haven't done any work on it. Mind you, my parents haven't done any work on it. But houses all around us are going for half a million, maybe a little bit more.

While rising rents are of great concern to the group, one participant expressed that instituting rent controls was un-American because individual property owners should have the right to do as they please. However, they believe that rising property taxes leaves landlords no choice but to raise rents which is also contributing to the rise in rental costs.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

Moderator (00:20:57):

Yeah. I think somebody talked about... Did someone mention rent control? So many [inaudible 00:21:01]. Yeah. But... So how, how do you all feel about rent control? What does that... How does that make you feel?

G1: SN (00:21:05):

I'm negative against it. I don't think it's a good idea. I think we live in a free market economy. That's the, that's what... It's the hallmarks of the United States of America. If someone's charging a price, you don't wanna pay it, you don't pay it, you know? A landlord can increase the rent by 20%, and that's what's going on. And you have the option to move out. Move out. And he, uh, think... If he thinks he can get that money, let him get the money. I mean, it's like people that cry about rent control also are people that are kind of... I feel like they're envious of people that own businesses and they, and they, they wanna be in that kinda dynamic. So it's like I own a property, I do own a rental property. I haven't increased my tenant's rent just because I, I create such a good dynamic of, of my costs, my costs to, to expenses. And... But you know? Maybe in a year if they renew, I might go up 10%, you know. We're talking, you know, a couple hundreds bucks. It's like... It's, it's just... It's natural. Like, you know, my property taxes are going up. And that's a whole other scam in my mind. Because I feel like, I feel like, it's like, it's like the government's just sucking money. This virtual number of what they can value your property at and then just tax you on it. And you're forced to pay it. You have no... There's no like remediation to it. I have appealed my property taxes every, every couple of years to mitigate that. But, um, even then, you know, this, the, the assessor can just be like... And it happened to me one time. I think they got tired and they, they're like, "Well, no. We think it's

While there was a consensus that it was not to have the government dictate whether or not a woman should have an abortion, several expressed that abortion should not be normalized as a birth control method. Other participants pushed back on the notion of abortion being used as birth control calling that a "misconception." It was expressed that educating children was important in preventing unwanted pregnancies.

G1: SN (00:28:22):

I just don't, I don't think abortion should be used as birth control.

G1: SE (00:28:24):

I agree.

G1: L (00:28:25):

I agree, too. I agree. Oh, my God, I'm so glad to hear you say that. And I'm a woman. And I just feel like... I don't know. I think we should look at education with women. Um, exposure to birth control. 'Cause there's more ways to not have babies than there used to have been. So we...

G1: SE (00:28:46):

I agree with that, too. I agree with that.

G1: L (00:28:50):

Yeah. It's just like.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G1: SE (00:28:51):

I mean, I mean, I, I am pro choice all the way but I don't agree that it should be birth control absolutely.

G1: SN (00:28:55):

It might be good, I think, if they, if they, if they desensitize abortion to make it like, "Oh, just get an abortion." Then it's just gonna be like, it's gonna make like women, younger girls to feel like, "Oh, that's normal." Like it's gonna like...

G1: SE (00:29:06):

Mm-hmm.

G1: SN (00:29:07):

And I don't think it's normal to have to get an abortion. That's just me. It's exacerbating the circumstances. That's like, "Okay, I need to get an abortion."

G1: SE (00:29:15):

Yeah.

G1: SN (00:29:15):

So it just becomes too like, like just, just like a commonplace word, then, then it's gonna, it's just gonna desensitize sense. I don't know. I'm just very polarized about the topic.

G1: SE (00:29:24):

Mm-hmm.

G1: CN (00:29:25):

I just say it becomes the norm, becomes the norm.

G1: SE (00:29:27):

Yeah.

G1: CN (00:29:27):

Yeah, yeah.

G1: SE (00:29:29):

It's a misconception.

G1: CN (00:29:30):

Big decision for [inaudible 00:29:32].

G1: SH (00:29:33):

Agreeing with her. I think it's a misconception as far as like people believing that it is, um, for birth control purposes. I primarily support it for medical purposes. You know what I mean? And for those who are raped.

G1: SH (00:29:52):

That's essential. But agreeing with education. Education is so primitive. And these children nowadays do not get education.

G1: SN (00:30:02):

Mm-hmm.

G1: SH (00:30:02):

While immigration was not rated as the most important issue, several discussed its importance to them because they knew someone who was undocumented and not able to get legal status. They have a close and personal connection to the issue.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G1: CN (00:30:15):

Um, I have a very good friend who's here illegally. Came here legally, was misinformed by some lawyers. Um, lost their privileges to be able to be able to get a green card through errors that were being told to her for her being naive, not knowing. This... I mean, this is going back 20, 30 years ago.

G1: CA (00:31:28):

The backlog is, uh, it's insane. The backlog for immigration is just... You're talking about somebody waiting for, um, legal, to be legal, you know, become legal. You're talking about a 10, 15, 20, 30-year wait.

G1: SE (00:32:22):

I have several friends with DACA. Like they're, they're through DACA. They do their taxes, they do everything we do, they're just with DACA. I'm just watching them renew. The, the whole renewal process, it's jus, it's just money.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Most participants are consuming news that is delivered to them via smartphones on their feeds within their social media apps. They self-select news stories that interest them. Content appears on their feeds either through promoted ads or from content shared by friends.

Moderator (00:33:09):

Yeah, sorry. It's just me talking. Um, what would you say is the main source, uh, your main source of, about getting information about these issues right now? Like...

G1: M (00:33:21):

Phone.

Moderator (00:33:41):

Okay. Now, are you watching... Are you getting it like, uh, notifications? Or do you go to the apps?

G1: M (00:33:47):

I mean, when I'm bored, I go. But when I get notifications, I look into it. So mostly notification but sometimes, I am going, going surfing, I'll go to the apps themselves.

Moderator (00:33:58):

To the news apps themselves?

G1: M (00:34:01):

Yes. Uh, just to be knowing, you know, just, um, information, what's going on.

G1: SE (00:34:10):

Like articles. Like if I see something that gets... grabs my attention from, from any, like any other news article.

Moderator (00:34:15):

And where are you catching the... Are you going to...

G1: SE (00:34:17):

Social media.

Moderator (00:34:17):

Social media?

G1: SE (00:34:18):

Mm-hmm. So like Facebook, Instagram.

Moderator (00:34:21):

And is that stuff that your friends have posted or is this stuff that's actually content from the stations or the news?

G1: SE (00:34:27):

Um, content from the st- like there are, may come with a sponsored ads.

Moderator (00:34:30):

Okay.

G1: SE (00:34:30):

Or, or even stuff that people share.

Moderator (00:34:33):

Mm-hmm. Okay, okay.

G1: M (00:34:34):

Basically, I mean, you would know if you sign up for certain groups or something on social media, that you'll see news from that. So you like CNN and they'll start throwing on that or on your, on your Instagram or Facebook page.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

Several participants shared that they believe that their phones are listening to their conversations. One suggested that more political content would be delivered on their feed since they were engaged in a conversation about politics.

G1: SN (00:34:47):

We're probably gonna see a lot of political stuff now. Our phones are listening.

G1: SE (00:34:50):

I know.

G1: L (00:34:51):

Right.

Moderator (00:34:51):

So your phones are listening?

G1: SN (00:34:52):

Oh, yeah.

Moderator (00:34:52):

Yeah, yeah.

G1: SN (00:34:54):

They're like watching.

G1: M (00:34:57):

They're watching while listening. Um...

G1: SN (00:34:58):

One participant believes that different news agencies present the same news story differently. They chose to watch a particular network because of the flow and their presentation of the news.

Moderator (00:35:32):

That's a... Yeah. Uh, and when you watch, um, NBC Nightly News, what is it about that news that you particularly like?

G1: SN (00:35:41):

Uh, just the, the flow of it. Uh, the, it's... Uh, there's ABC and then there's NBC. And they're, they both kind of have the same stories. But then sometimes, like some of them have different takes on the stories, which I think is cool. Different interviews and different things like that.

Several participants shared that they limit the amount of news they consume because it is too negative and depresses them. They either limit the time spent watching or only search on the internet for stories that interest them.

G1: CN (00:36:12):

That's what I watch. And me because it's, like he says, it's condensed, condensed in 30 minutes, it's not that overload of an hour of them repeating the same thing and then get you depressed because of the war in Ukraine and what, you know, whatever's going on. But I do the morning, I do the, you know, local news here every morning just to see. And that's just even de- you know, depressing will all the crime and all the shootings and...

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

G1: M (00:36:38):

I, I try not to watch the local news.

Moderator (00:36:39):

You try not to watch the local news?

G1: M (00:36:39):

Not to watch the...

Moderator (00:36:39):

Why is that?

G1: M (00:36:39):

Depressing.

G1: SE (00:36:41):

Yeah, it's [inaudible 00:36:41].

G1: M (00:36:41):

There's always something happening around.

G1: CA (00:36:43):

It gives you anxiety.

G1: SE (00:36:44):

Yes. It really does. Like watching it makes me feel very uneasy.

Social media was described as a form of delivering the news in a fun and entertaining way. One participant liked the ability to select stories they liked on TikTok and swipe away stories they don't like.

G1: M (00:36:38):

I, I try not to watch the local news.

Moderator (00:36:39):

You try not to watch the local news?

G1: M (00:36:39):

Not to watch the...

Moderator (00:36:39):

Why is that?

G1: M (00:36:39):

Depressing.

G1: SE (00:36:41):

Yeah, it's [inaudible 00:36:41].

G1: M (00:36:41):

There's always something happening around.

G1: CA (00:36:43):

It gives you anxiety.

G1: SE (00:36:44):

Yes. It really does. Like watching it makes me feel very uneasy.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

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

Moderator (00:38:41):

What about TikTok?

G1: SN (00:38:42):

It's click. It's right there.

G1: SH (00:38:43):

Very click.

G1: SN (00:38:43):

You can kinda like... It's in between other things you'd like to watch. So it gets your attention and boom, you can swipe up and go to next story or go to next Tik-

Moderator (00:38:52):

Do you, do you watch it for news though or you use it for entertaining?

G1: SN (00:38:53):

Oh, seek anything out on TikTok. I let it kind of populate what you, what are, what it kind of wants you, your, on your For You page. Where, where you think it'll, it'll kind of give you stuff that you might like. Then if you like it, it's gonna, it's gonna put that in the algorithm and then kinda give you stuff related to it.

Moderator (00:39:09):

Mm-hmm.

G1: SN (00:39:10):

It's really, it's really cool.

Moderator (00:39:11):

Do you get a lot of politics and that or is it just...

G1: SH (00:39:13):

There are some.

G1: SN (00:39:13):

Yeah.

G1: SH (00:39:13):

Participants shared that they use apps on their phones that connect them to their neighbors where they can monitor what is happening around them. They specifically mentioned one called Citizen as one that is used for this purpose. The NextDoor social media app was also described positively and as a way to keep abreast with what is happening in their own neighborhood especially as it relates to crime.

G1: SH (00:37:13):

Yeah. Um, I don't primarily watch the news. I just feel like they're too scripted for me. And it's not... Or it's not raw and uncut. So personally, for me, I follow social media sites that expose - They'll do the research and expose what's really happening in the government. Yeah. There's one called more information, I'll follow them. And I'll follow like ATL Scoop. Um, I also have an app. I don't know if you all have it. But there's a neighborhood app that pings you when

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

G1: SN (00:37:46):

Citizen?

G1: SH (00:37:46):

Yes. I utilize that, uh, app.

G1: SE (00:37:52):

I don't like that one.

G1: CN (00:37:54):

That would give you anxiety.

Moderator (00:37:55):

It's called Neighborhood app or Citizen?

G1: SN (00:37:56):

Citizen.

Moderator (00:37:56):

It's called Citizen.

G1: CA (00:39:59):

I get my news from, um, the app, Nextdoor.

G1: SH (00:40:01):

Yeah.

G1: CA (00:40:02):

Uh, Nextdoor app.

G1: SH (00:40:02):

Yeah. And I have that, too.

G1: CA (00:40:03):

Yeah, the Nextdoor because it's nosy neighbor.

G1: SH (00:40:12):

Yeah. [inaudible 00:40:13].

G1: CA (00:40:12):

It's nosy neighbors and literally you can, like, you know...

G1: CN (00:40:16):

You, you find out what's going... I mean, they're nosy, but it's good to know [inaudible 00:40:19].

G1: CA (00:40:18):

It's good to know if [inaudible 00:40:19].

G1: CN (00:40:19):

Like in my neighbor... Like I live in a pretty decent neighborhood. I've been there, uh, 10 years, and we only had one crime like in the actual subdivision. And last May, we had a situation. Somebody had a visitor, he didn't take his medications, went haywire, and started destroying people's property.

Moderator (00:40:34):

Oh, gosh.

G1: CN (00:40:35):

Um, and so we... The... You know, as part of the board, we had to address it. But, you know, because I'm Fulton, South Fulton, you're not you know, uh, we... The cops couldn't even come to us in time. So neighbors had to restrain him 'til the cops came. 'Cause Fulton came and said it was dumb. South Fulton came and said, "We think it's dumb, it's us, we don't know." So it, it was like 45 minutes of chaos. But they're, it's a good, it's a... To me, it's a good app because you get to see... It's got a lot of craziness in there but...

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONTENT

Paid news content was not something that participants access. Instead, they have discovered ways around news online paywalls by Googling the story or accessing the content for free.

G1: SN (00:39:37):

I like New York Times too but they charge. I'm not paying.

G1: SE (00:39:40):

Well, a lot of the stuff that you see on social media kind of takes you back to those types of articles. Like it's not just someone making a post or whatever.

G1: SH (00:39:46):

Yeah. And they're not, they're not making up stuff. Like I've seen people solve crimes quicker on social media than the police. So I mean, like for me, that's where you get the... You know?

Moderator (00:41:14):

Uh, I wanna go back to what G1: SN talked about, about having to pay to get access to like New York Times. What the... Does that keep you all from accessing that news? What do you typically do?

G1: SE (00:41:22):

I don't pay for it.

G1: CN (00:41:23):

I don't pay for it.

Moderator (00:41:23):

You don't pay for it?

G1: L (00:41:25):

Oh, let me tell you what I do. Well, I had a neat little trick that I learned.

G1: SN (00:41:29):

That's what I [inaudible 00:41:30] so.

G1: L (00:41:33):

Let me, let me get you repeat the question so I make sure I answer it right.

Moderator (00:41:35):

No. Just go ahead.

G1: L (00:41:36):

Okay. So if you don't wanna pay... You're talking about paying for the news, right?

Moderator (00:41:39):

Mm-hmm.

G1: L (00:41:40):

Okay. You just... On an iPhone or Android, just copy and paste the title and it's exploring exactly...

G1: M (00:41:48):

There you go. That's what I do. That's what I do. That's what I do.

G1: L (00:41:49):

They give you a free copy of the same story.

G1: M (00:41:52):

That's what I do.
G1: L (00:41:52)

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

G1: M (00:42:02):

So I just google search the keywords and then it'll give me 10 sources for free and be seeing...

G1: L (00:42:07):

For the same article-

G1: M (00:42:08):

For the same article.

G1: L (00:42:09):

... without paying \$10.

G1: M (00:42:10):

And that's the hack.

G1: SN (00:42:11):

But it's not the, it's not the actual New York Times article.

G1: M (00:42:14):

It's not the actual but it's, the, the news is actual.

YouTube was described as entertaining, as a place where news stations can get accessed along with content creators. One participant noted that they like the comment sections underneath the videos where references and other info can be added.

Moderator (00:42:37):

You love YouTube, G1: M? What do you love about it? When is it-

G1: M (00:42:38):

I love YouTube that, uh, it's a good pastime.

Moderator (00:42:41):

Mm-hmm.

G1: M (00:42:41):

And some characters in there, like clowns.

Moderator (00:42:42):

What about for the news?

G1: M (00:42:43):

So I subscribe like they're like channels again, subscribe. So I do subscribe like ABC, NBC. Uh, just hit the like and then you have that page. So like when you open your YouTube, uh, wall, I mean it, it just shows like all the likes or subscription, uh...

G1: L (00:43:44):

And I learned a lot in the commentary of news as well. We're now looking at YouTube videos and you read the commentary underneath it. There's a lot of great pertinent information that's there embedded.

Moderator (00:43:55):

And who's putting that information in there? Users or...

G1: L (00:43:57):

Mm-hmm. Users. And they will usually cite their references. Not all the time. But a lot of times, they'll cite their references too, if you wanna fact check what they're saying, what they wanna expound on the topic.

Moderator (00:44:07):

Mm-hmm.

G1: L (00:44:07):

So it's great because you have an audience there, you can bounce ideas off of and get more information from YouTube.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

Spanish language media was described as exaggerated with provocatively dressed news anchors that make the news less credible. The presentation of the news was described as overly dramatic, much like the telenovelas.

G1: CN (00:45:07):

Um, I don't even know how to say it. Um, like on the Spanish news, the women are like going, showing out and popping out short skirts. And in on the American news, everybody's very you know, more virginal. That's number one. Number two, it's more, um, my mom watches it all the time, and it's more like movie star stuff, movie star stuff. And then a little bit of what's going on. The news that she watches, you know.

Moderator (00:45:36):

Mm-hmm.

G1: CN (00:45:36):

She prefers to watch the news in... For Puerto Rico stations instead of the Atlanta stations because she said that she don't care about all the crime here. And she doesn't wanna know about the crime in her neighborhood because she doesn't go out. She'd rather know what's going on with her family in Puerto Rico. Uh, but really, like you can see the difference like the news lady, literally she's, you know, size two. Nothing wrong with the size two, you know. Size two boobs are popping out, skirt... You know, even like the talk shows are different too.

Moderator (00:46:01):

Yeah.

G1: CN (00:46:02):

You know, f- four or five inch heels. And they're like...

Moderator (00:46:05):

What about the news content, though? Is the content...

G1: SE (00:46:06):

I think it's dramatic.

Moderator (00:46:10):

Mm-hmm.

G1: CN (00:46:10):

It's, uh... I think it was... The, the way it's... The way they, the way they present the news is like...

G1: SE (00:46:13):

A novella

G1: CN (00:46:13):

Yeah. In Mexico, it's like [inaudible 00:46:17].

G1: SE (00:46:18):

Oh my God. And then my mom will go... She was like, "Did you hear it?" And I'm like, "Stop [inaudible 00:46:22]. Just stop."

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

Those who use Twitter use it to follow political figures and news celebrities. Facebook and Instagram are used more to follow friends and family, with news content being delivered on their feeds.

Moderator (00:48:43):

Do you all follow any political figures on Instagram, Facebook?

G1: SE (00:48:46):

I do on Twitter.

Moderator (00:48:47):

You do on Twitter?

G1: SE (00:48:48):

Yeah.

Moderator (00:48:48):

Okay.

G1: SE (00:48:48):

I use Twitter just for that. Just for po- um, politics. I...

Moderator (00:48:51):

Oh, really?

G1: SE (00:48:51):

Yeah. I don't really go through the other stuff. But I'll like, um, follow senators, mayors, um, different news anchors and stuff like that, so.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Discussions about being a good citizen prompted one participant to discuss those in society who take advantage of social safety nets. They described people as playing the victim and taking PPP funds when they did not need them. They see themselves as hard-working as others as lazy people who take advantage of government programs.

G1: SN (00:50:00):

I think, I think this current, uh, climate, I think a lot of people are trying to play the victim. And it, it gets really annoying when you have a lot of people that feel like they should just get handouts in this country. And, and, and they don't wanna... Like all this PPP stuff. It's like that was a huge fraud and people are getting like arrested now, you know. They, they, they, they took advantage of this like real grassroots kinda system to, to help out employee, employees and employers. And, and they, and they just made a fraud of it. And it's like, like even like, like the Black Lives Matter movement, I heard like even some of the p- people in the upper ups there, all the money that went there leads to buying houses and cars and stuff. It's like they're not doing anything...

G1: SH (00:50:40):

Everyone's trying to get... What do they call it? Get rich quick scamming, scam.

G1: SN (00:50:46):

Yeah.

Moderator (00:50:46):

So say on this, on this PPP thing, do you think that's like a majority of what happened or you think that was a small minority? And what, what would you say?

G1: SN (00:51:34):

So the IRS, so the I- IRS agents, right?

G1: M (00:51:38):

They... They are... They, they gave you the money and they're gonna get it back with interest. But it's just a matter of time. And they gave it to the... There was a reason why they gave all this money knowing they're not just gonna... They know, there's, there are more like 10 barber shops owned by

one person and 100 employees. When his income for 1040 the year before was only 30,000 a year. Participants describe good citizens as those who help others, especially those who are in need, whether in day-to-day activities or assisting in voting. Helping others was described as an attribute of a good citizen.

G1: CA (00:52:11):

Um, I'd say empathy. Um, I guess, because I've been, because I've seen and I've... I've seen what my parents have gone through and I've seen, um, like in my neighborhood, um, I guess the Latinos and the Hispanics, that they're not able to drive. So they ask you, you know, if they come looking for something, um, give, you know, help them out. So that's more in tune to when my mom and dad have always, I guess, said, "Help them out, you know. If they need a ride, give them a ride. Um, if you see them walking back from [inaudible 00:52:47] over, stop to the side and tell them to hop off." Um, obviously, I do it, you know. I'm not going to give a ride out to everybody, but I, I am mindful to see who's out there and who's not out there.

G1: CA (00:53:00):

Um, when I have information like for the voting stuff, um, all these, um, people who have like there's this African group, but I print it all out in Spanish. And I'll tell like my friends I would be like, "Okay, November 8, you have to, you know, make sure that if you can't go, tell me or tell my mom. You know, that, we'll take you. And here's all the information in Spanish. Take it."

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

And then, you know, I know it's gonna get shared. So I guess, you know, little things like that that, you know, people don't really do or see but, you know, helping, helping out your neighbor.

G1: SH (00:54:26):

So let's say I'm just overhearing a parent having an issue that I don't even know and she's discussing her child that has Asperger's or ADHD, I'm going to reach out to help her.

Moderator (00:54:37):

Okay. So helping?

G1: SH (00:54:38):

Absolutely. I'm gonna be an advocate for that area.

Moderator (00:54:41):

Mm-hmm.

G1: SH (00:54:41):

So for me, primarily, I'm an advocate for, in helping other people in my areas of concentration.

Participants often discussed voter suppression or the disenfranchisement of voters in Georgia. Polls closing or moving or long lines are some examples given of how people of color are being disenfranchised.

G1: SE (00:22:45):

Um, I think everybody, uh, they have that right. I think everybody should have the, the option. I mean, I, I'm, I'm very about like, "Hey, voting is your voice and everyone should go out there and do it." But I have experienced... Well, not experienced. I have gone to different places in, you know, in, uh, definitely South Atlanta, Southwest Atlanta, where, um, I grew up in Cobb County. So I go up to, in Powder Springs and go up and vote where I'm registered. And I'm in and out about five minutes. You go to the predominantly Black areas, there's two machines. And the line, three hours, three, four hours long. And I have gone to those, um, locations, those voting sites and I have handed out water, snacks. And I'm like, "Stay in line." I know this is unfair but voting for the correct person, I would hope would, would change that [inaudible 00:23:35].

Moderator (00:23:35):

Has it always been this way or...

G1: SE (00:23:38):

I don't know if it's always been this way. But I started getting involved in 2016. Um, and just going to the, just all the elections. Um, the governor election, uh, with Kemp and Stacey Abrams. I mean, it was just...

G1: L (00:55:58):

Oh, yeah. I was just saying a lot of people have been disenfranchised, uh, for voting. So I don't think necessarily it's indicative that because you vote, it makes you a good citizen. There's a lot of people that are seniors that can't vote, there's people that are disabled that can't vote. There's imprisoned people, there's people who have lost their voting rights for whatever reason. So I was just putting

that in there. Jury duty was described as annoying and a waste of time because many of the cases that go to court are seen as unimportant or frivolous.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

G1: CN (00:56:37):

You know, you, you gotta fill out this form, you get picked, you go down there. And then you're sitting there all day. You, you... If you have a job, you get paid for the day. And they're supposed to pay for your day, your digital \$20 check from the court. If you're not employed, it misses you from a day of working. And just because you're unemployed doesn't mean they're gonna let you out of one. You know, jury duty. Um, then you're sitting there and you're listening to these lawyers and they're going back and forth. And it's just like... And, and I mean, the case that I was on, I was like, "This is such a stupid case. Why are we even in court for it?" You know?

G1: CN (00:57:09):

Um, it... I'll do my duty and go to jury duty, but I will always find a way to try to get out of it. I'm just being honest.

Moderator (00:57:17):

Mm-hmm.

G1: CN (00:57:18):

You know? I, I don't want my time wasted.

One participant shared that they believed that good citizens concentrate on those things that affect the lives of people within their own community.

G1: SH (00:53:58):

Times have changed. So I mean, technically, how I see it is just sailing my own way. Um, I'm an advocate for the things that I believe in and the things that I'm specialized in. And I work within those pockets.

Moderator (00:54:13):

Who do you advocate for? What does that mean? Is that, is that the role of a good citizen?

G1: SH (00:54:16):

For instance, like even as an educator, I'm very, very like tied to, connected to special education.

Moderator (00:54:25):

Mm-hmm.

G1: SH (00:54:26):

So let's say I'm just overhearing a parent having an issue that I don't even know and she's discussing her child that has Asperger's or ADHD, I'm going to reach out to help her.

Moderator (00:54:37):

Okay. So helping?

G1: SH (00:54:38):

Absolutely. I'm gonna be an advocate for that area.

Moderator (00:54:41):

Mm-hmm.

G1: SH (00:54:41):

So for me, primarily, I'm an advocate for, in helping other people in my areas of concentration.

Participants learn about civic responsibilities from their family. One participant shared that their mother was active in grassroots organizing and taught her the importance of voting.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 1

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

G1: CA (00:55:12):

Um, that was the first thing I did when my son turned 18 and my niece turned... When... All of my family members, that was the first thing. I think I learned that at a young age because my mom was always... Um, my mom worked in grassroots. So I, I always saw that. I always saw my mom...

Moderator (00:55:29):

In, in grassroots like, specifically like... Do you know what grassroots, Latino grassroots?

G1: CA (00:55:33):

Latino grassroots, yeah, when we were younger. So, um, me seeing that I think it's just, you know, something that comes second nature. So every time, you know... And even, even, you know, even if they don't have a right, take them down, um, pick them down, and, you know or you know [inaudible 00:55:50] you know, to the county, um, but... That's like a rite of passage.

Participants shared frustration about voting in Georgia. Access to voting was believed to be unequal, with people living in lower-income areas getting less access. One participant, who ranked voting as their most important issue, noted that access to voting varied from county to county and believed this was a form of voter suppression. Another participant believed that the changing of polling site locations was contributing to voter confusion and keeping people from voting. They believe the gubernatorial election between Stacey Abrams and Brian Kemp was negatively affected by these inequities.

G1: SE (00:22:45):

Um, I think everybody, uh, they have that right. I think everybody should have the, the option. I mean, I, I'm, I'm very about like, "Hey, voting is your voice and everyone should go out there and do it." But I have experienced... Well, not experienced. I have gone to different places in, you know, in, uh, definitely South Atlanta, Southwest Atlanta, where, um, I grew up in Cobb County. So I go up to, in Powder Springs and go up and vote where I'm registered. And I'm in and out about five minutes. You go to the predominantly Black areas, there's two machines. And the line, three hours, three, four hours long. And I have gone to those, um, locations, those voting sites and I have handed out water, snacks. And I'm like, "Stay in line." I know this is unfair but voting for the correct person, I would hope would, would change that -

G1: L (00:26:20):

The gunshots, the ambulances, the litter. It's just, I don't know. Um, I think Andre Dickens, the mayor of Atlanta, has a really good plan to, uh, deal with the crime and the violence and the gun control. But it's just going on everywhere. All across the cities, all across the United States, there's been a surge in violence and crime. So I was just surprised by coming into Fulton County, a little surprised by... I mean, in two properties. Like, like they said, you own, you own one property and it's in Cobb County or Douglas County, totally different experience than anywhere where there's people of color, you know? 'Cause my, my husband and I are both of Hispanic origin. He is, um, Puerto Rican, I have a Panamanian background. And so issue's atrocious. Like the, somebody mentioned, um, the government services. Like if I need to go to the government service like DMV or Social Security Office, I don't do it in Fulton County 'cause the line is wrapping around the building, there's no parking. I'm just like, wow. You know, you can see the disparities between race and class and socio-economic background and protection, poverty. You can see it so clearly

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP & POLITICS

Participants don't feel that the government is working for them.

G1: SH (00:11:43):

I would just say both. Because, of course, our governors are responsible for go- as, a, a part of Congress to pass bills into votes amongst, you know, the people in Washington. So I just feel like, uh, it's just, it's not, it's just not working. Whatever they're doing is just not working.

Some participants shared that they believed in outside forces controlling prices and other aspects of government. While they did not call it a "deep state" they reference those in "power" manipulating the prices of goods.

G1: SN (00:12:20):

An inflation pandemic, you know? We're almost... Our world was kind of being like manipulated to be comfortable paying more.

Moderator (00:12:27):

Mm-hmm.

G1: SN (00:12:27):

So...

Moderator (00:12:28):

Who's doing the manipulating?

G1: SN (00:12:31):

I don't know. It's the powers that be, you know.

Moderator (00:13:16):

Who do you think is responsible for the rise of gas prices?

G1: SN (00:13:18):

You know, whoever's in charge of the, the major industries, who's in charge of the, of the supply chain of, of those specific like logistics.

Moderator (00:13:25):

But we'll... I... Maybe I'll ask it this way. Would you say it's corporations or government?

G1: SN (00:13:29):

I think it's both.

Moderator (01:15:28):

Okay. G1: SN. what did you write on, on, on Democrat?

G1: SN (01:15:33):

Broken promises, Jeffrey Epstein and the Clintons.

Moderator (01:15:37):

Okay. And what, why don't you put Jeffrey Epstein?

G1: SN (01:15:43):

I just feel like there's something that we don't know that was going on between Epstein, the Clintons.

Moderator (01:16:04):

You don't trust it?

G1: SN (01:16:04):

Don't trust it. And doing some weird stuff, kind of seen secret societies, um...

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP & POLITICS CONT

One participant describes the Democratic party as nothing but broken promises. While they like what democrats offer, they prefer the straight forward honest approach of republicans.

G1: SN (01:00:39):

Yeah. So it was a real like, like the Democratic Party was trying to sell this like dream to everybody. It was the biggest nightmare that we, that we got ourselves into. And, uh, I'm, I'm like... You know, there's a lot of broken promises that were made. But then I'm thinking of if, if, if, if, you know, if Trump won, you know, would do we still be in a situation... Like, like what does the president really, what [inaudible 01:01:02] really have, besides just being boisterous? Well, now, he's, he's just kind of quiet and kind of living his sentences.

G1: SN (01:01:09):

But, you know, I feel like they're more of like a, a tool than, than a, than a decision making thing. So I mean, it's just, it almost, it almost looks good, to be honest.

G1: SN (01:01:18):

Now Trump's trying to come back and it's like, everybody... You know, people that, that voted for Biden are gonna, are gonna vote. Or you hear people like, "Oh, I voted for Trump. Now even... I don't care. Like Biden isn't like..." It's like everyone's, it's all wishy washy and hypocritical. And, you know?

G1: SH (01:06:28):

[inaudible 01:06:28] but I, I'll tell you this much, I never liked him as a New Yorker but I love his truth, his honesty. He's not, he does not care. So keep talking 'cause I wanna know what's going on. Tell us the truth. You're not gonna hide it, tell us the truth just like you brought your paperwork home, dummy. But at least let me know that you're all... So keep talking. That's how I, I... That's what I appreciated about his, uh, was his honesty by accident you know. No filter, so.

G1: SN (01:18:31):

It just put telling it as it is, no fluff, right to the point or even, even if it hurts, it's gonna... they're gonna say it. That's it.

Moderator (01:18:37):

They're gonna say it. So you feel like if you had to say, if you had to talk about which party is the most honest, you would probably-

G1: SN (01:18:44):

Republican.

Moderator (01:18:45):

the Republican as most honest to you?

G1: SN (01:18:46):

Yes.

G1: SN (01:21:41):

You know, initially, I was really pro Democrat. And, and I thought, you know, things were gonna pick up this, this, really the next four years. But when, when I started just like kind of like dissecting it, you know, and they're like holding this [inaudible 01:21:53] of like student loan forgiveness in front of a lot of people's faces, they haven't done anything, forgive any student loans. I think they just keep talking about it and rehashing it. And again, another broken promise. So it's like now I'm losing faith to them. So now I'm more aligned with Republicans. 'Cause they're saying, "No, we're not gonna

Participate in the Biden administration. And I appreciate that. Do you want to go back to 2016? They're saying, "No, we're not gonna change the political landscape, making it more unpredictable and circus-like."

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP & POLITICS CONT

G1: SN (01:01:18):

Now Trump's trying to come back and it's like, everybody... You know, people that, that voted for Biden are gonna, are gonna vote. Or you hear people like, "Oh, I voted for Trump. Now even... I don't care. Like Biden isn't like..." It's like everyone's, it's all wishy washy and hypocritical. And, you know?

Moderator (01:01:32):

Has that always been that way?

G1: SN (01:01:33):

No, I think this was like a real, I think, I think it was like the biggest one. This is what started it

Moderator (01:01:38):

Mm-hmm.

G1: L (01:01:40):

With Trump or Biden?

G1: SN (01:01:42):

With Biden.

G1: L (01:01:42):

Oh, yeah.

G1: SN (01:01:44):

Yeah. Well, and Trump.

G1: SE (01:01:44):

I think 2016.

G1: SN (01:01:44):

In 2016?

G1: CN (01:01:44):

2016, it started.

G1: SN (01:01:44):

Yeah.

G1: SE (01:01:44):

Yeah.

G1: CN (01:01:48):

Yeah. That's when, that's when the circus started. Yeah. [inaudible 01:01:50]. We can, we, we cannot go to the circus.

Moderator (01:01:52):

Wait, one at a time, one at a time. G1: CN?

G1: CN (01:01:55):

I said I think that's when the circus started and we can't not not go to the circus 'cause we're living the circus. And so that's the way I kind of see it.

G1: L (01:02:01):

Yeah.

G1: CN (01:02:02):

One participant shared that they vote in all local elections while another admitted not knowing that a local election was taking place so they did not vote.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP & POLITICS CONT

Moderator (01:03:03):

Mm-hmm. G1: CA, is there an election that you haven't voted in or you pretty much voted in all?

G1: CA (01:03:07):

I, I vote in all. I do local. I just did the... I do the local and do the runoffs.

Moderator (01:03:11):

Mm-hmm.

G1: CA (01:03:11):

Um, I do it all.

Moderator (01:03:14):

Mm-hmm. Anybody else that you may-

G1: CN (01:03:15):

I missed the local ones. Um, don't even remember why I missed it. I missed it but at the runoffs, I did go home because I was like, "Oh my gosh, what's happening here?"

Moderator (01:03:23):

So when you talk to friends or family or other Latinos about like reasons why they may not vote, what are some of the things that you hear? I'm sure you got friends who don't vote.

G1: SE (01:03:34):

They don't care about us.

Some participants viewed the raid of Trump's Mar-o-Lago residence as a distraction from the fact that democrats have not delivered on promises made and from the party's own internal issues and other corruption and misdeeds. One participant commented that Trump was accidentally telling the truth regarding the paperwork Trump had taken.

Moderator (01:04:38):

What about... 'Cause some of the things that have been going on lately, like the Trump investigation, anything that... Does that promise you more?

G1: M (01:04:44):

It's gonna be fine.

G1: SE (01:04:48):

Yeah. I just don't think anything's gonna ever happen to him as far as, um...

Moderator (01:04:50):

Actions?

G1: SE (01:04:51):

Yeah.

G1: SN (01:04:53):

I mean, I'm wor- worried about what's going on Hunter Biden and all this cocaine use and what's going on with all that, all that stuff in that laptop and all the Ukraine business dealings. And why are, and why are they getting \$40 billion?

G1: SH (01:05:03):

Where did that, where did that come from? Right.

G1: SN (01:05:03):

Yeah.

G1: SH (01:05:03):

Where did that money come from?

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP & POLITICS CONT

Moderator (01:05:07):

And when did you... Where did you hear about it, G1: SN? Is it-

G1: SH (01:05:10):

We're just talking about it [inaudible 01:05:10].

Moderator (01:05:10):

Any news station or, or social media or...

G1: SN (01:05:13):

Yeah. It's on TikTok. It's on, you know, CNN.

G1: SH (01:05:15):

CNN.

G1: SN (01:05:15):

So, somethings about it. Fox News, you know. It's like put the limelight on them.

G1: SN (01:05:21):

They're actually in office right now. Trump's not even in office. Like what are you looking for?

G1: SH (01:05:25):

It's a distraction.

G1: SN (01:05:25):

Yeah.

CNN.

G1: SN (01:05:15):

So, somethings about it. Fox News, you know. It's like put the limelight on them.

G1: SH (01:05:20):

Mm-hmm.

G1: SN (01:05:21):

They're actually in office right now. Trump's not even in office. Like what are you looking for?

G1: SH (01:05:25):

It's a distraction.

G1: SN (01:05:25):

Yeah.

Moderator (01:04:38):

What about... 'Cause some of the things that have been going on lately, like the Trump investigation, anything that... Does that promise you more?

G1: M (01:04:44):

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FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP & POLITICS CONT

G1: SH (01:05:03):

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G1: SN (01:05:03):

Yeah.

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G1: SH (01:06:28):

I'll tell you this much, I never liked him as a New Yorker but I love his truth, his honesty. He's not, he does not care. So keep talking 'cause I wanna know what's going on. Tell us the truth. You're not gonna hide it, tell us the truth just like you brought your paperwork home, dummy. But at least let me know that you're all... So keep talking. That's how I, I... That's what I appreciated about his, uh, was his honesty by accident you know. No filter, so.

One participant described the government's response to the coronavirus as gaslighting.

G1: SN (01:08:52):

One, one... Uh, another thing I wanted, I wanted to get into as far as... I forgot to mention this, it's like when the whole Coronavirus is happening, they kept telling me, "Get the vaccine, get the vaccine." And then boom, everyone got the vaccine and boom, people are still getting Coronavirus

G1: SN (01:09:03):

And then boom. It's like, it's like, "Oh, now you need two shots." "Oh, you're gonna, you're gonna get Coronavirus. Even get the third shot." "Oh, 94 shots."

G1: SN (01:09:10):

It's like... That to me, it was just a huge like, like just gaslighting people. Like they made you think that you won't, you won't get it. So like it, it, it's not a vaccine.

Moderator (01:09:19):

When you say who, they, who is they?

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP & POLITICS CONT

G1: SE (01:09:21):

I don't think that one [inaudible 01:09:22].

G1: SN (01:09:23):

Pfizer, the government. Corona vaccinations

The Democratic party is viewed as not being good at taking care of the economy nor good at business because they lack entrepreneurial spirit.

G1: M (01:11:17):

Uh, they're not smart in business or, you know, taking care of the economy, I would say.

Moderator (01:11:22):

Mm-hmm.

G1: M (01:11:22):

But in other like social, uh, justice, or, you know, like them, uh, slightly more, better educated than the other one.

Moderator (01:11:29):

Mm-hmm. And what makes you say they're not good at business? Because...

G1: M (01:11:32):

Uh, I think they, they don't, they lack the business, uh, you know, side where, um, they're not bi- they're not entrepreneurs, I think so, uh, in, in terms of like the, the party itself. I mean, you know, um, I think the other party is more built with entrepreneurs or like backed by it, uh, more entrepreneurial.

The Democratic party brand is seen as moving away from its old brand of being for workers and the middle class and as a party of unity. It is now perceived as not caring for ordinary, working people.

G1: CN (01:13:56):

He's trying to read what, what they're giving him, but he did better than Trump, you know, um, you know. It's just like I feel like... When I was younger, I feel like the Democratic Party was stronger and it had, it stood for something. Now, to me, there's just like...

Moderator (01:14:10):

What did they stand for before?

G1: CN (01:14:12):

When I was younger? I mean, um... Yeah. It was like everybody was, you know, "We're gonna get everybody together. We're gonna do this. We... And, and, and we are all one." Or at least when I was younger, it felt like, "We heard you. We acknowledged you." Now without even acknowledging you, you know. We... Like...

Moderator (01:14:28):

You as a, a female or a Latina or what?

G1: CN (01:14:30):

Well, everything as a person. Just as a human. You know what I mean? You... When I was younger, you know, my mom would talk about, you know, you know, the elections and stuff, but she was... My dad always never voted on it. But my mom would say, "Hey, you know, we, we did this and we're doing that." But now I feel like it's, it's just not there. It's like, it's, I, I can't even explain this, like they're not... They're in Washington and they're in their own little bubble, and everybody else is in this other bubble. And unless you're in that bubble, we don't care what you're... We're gonna say we care, but we really don't care about you.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 3 CONT

Moderator (01:15:02):

You've seen the Democratic Party change?

G1: CN (01:15:05):

Yeah, it's... And it's changed and they're, and they're trying to go with the flow with how times are changing with, you know, you know, with gay rights and stuff. Uh, they're trying. But I don't think that they're...

Moderator (01:15:13):

Uh, has, has the Republican Party... I'm sorry to cut off you. But you don't think they are...

G1: CN (01:15:18):

No, I don't think that they believe it themselves. They're just saying things.

One participant viewed the Democratic party as too liberal and even described it as socialist.

Moderator (01:16:07):

Okay. G1: L, what did you put on, on the Democrat?

G1: L (01:16:09):

I put socialist values.

Moderator (01:16:13):

Socialist values?

G1: L (01:16:14):

Mm-hmm.

Moderator (01:16:19):

Okay. And what does that mean to you? Socialist values?

G1: L (01:16:19):

That means that, um...

Moderator (01:16:19):

Is that a positive thing or a negative thing? I'll start there.

G1: L (01:16:22):

I'm in the middle. So I'm a little bit, uh, democratic, but I'm mostly Republican. So I'm, I'm considered a moderate, I think is what they call it. So, um, socialism to me is more based on the community. And it's the opposite of the antithesis of picking yourself up by your own bootstraps. It's more of a collective effort and a collective consciousness to get things done. And ask, "Well, maybe you don't have any bootstraps. Maybe your hand is amputated. Maybe you weren't born with bootstraps." It's asking those questions.

Moderator (01:16:58):

Mm-hmm.

G1: L (01:16:58):

And so I think we need that, that balance between the two. Because it's important, because we're not in an equal playing field as a Hispanic. And the United States, I can say the playing field was not even. So it was important to have that balance between both parties to ask.

The Republican Party is viewed as old and out of touch with modern society.

Moderator (01:17:16):

What, what did you put under Republican? Let's go... G1: SH, what did you write at the Republican?

G1: SH (01:17:21):

I said money hungry, pest control, just counter and flip thing, placed a lot of restrictions, aggressive, extremely old and wealthy. Stingy, keep the rich richer and the poor poorer.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 1

SECTION 3 CONT

Moderator (01:17:33):

Okay. G1: M, what did you write?

G1: M (01:17:36):

Conservative, traditional.

Moderator (01:17:37):

Conservative and traditional. And what does conservative mean to you?

G1: M (01:17:40):

Old ideas.

Moderator (01:17:40):

Old ideas?

G1: M (01:17:40):

Stuck in, stuck in old ideas. I don't know. More traditional.

G1: SE (01:21:02):

Um, just because I feel like the other party is just stuck in old ways. And at this point, we're just ready for these old men in, in charge, just die out. I just got to be honest.

G1: SN (01:21:41):

You know, initially, I was really pro Democrat. And, and I thought, you know, things were gonna pick up this, this, really the next four years. But when, when I started just like kind of like dissecting it, you know, and they're like holding this [inaudible 01:21:53] of like student loan forgiveness in front of a lot of people's faces, they haven't done anything, forgive any student loans. I think they just keep talking about it and rehashing it. And again, another broken promise. So it's like now I'm losing faith to them. So now I'm more aligned with Republicans. 'Cause they're saying, "No, we're not gonna forgive your student loans." And I appreciate that. Don't, don't toy us. Don't toy with our emotions.

There were mixed feelings as to whether or not President Biden was to blame for the rise in gas prices.

One participant felt that the President was not to blame, while another felt he was because he closed the Keystone pipeline.

G1: SE (01:19:38):

I just, uh, I just find it... I laugh every time I hear somebody say, "Oh, you know, screw Biden 'cause of these gas prices." I'm like, "I don't think Biden's like in charge or in control of the gas price."

G1: SN (01:19:49):

Well, it's kinda he close the pipeline so yes, he is a lot in control of our gas prices going up.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

Key Findings for Group 2

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Inflations and rising costs were among the most important issues for participants. They have seen increases in gas and food.

In the discussion about the economy, participants see ordinary people losing while big businesses win. They describe corporations as making large profits during the pandemic.

Participants believe that racism has always been an issue, but it wasn't until Trump that people have become more vocal and emboldened in their racist rhetoric.

The cost of housing was a concern for participants as they have witnessed rents and costs of homes skyrocket over the past 5 years.

One participant commented that the middle class is shrinking, with fewer and fewer people earning good wages. They see this as lessening the strength of America.

Participants believe there is a correlation between the economy and crime. When the economy is not doing well, they believe that crime increases.

Participants see the recent Roe vs. Wade decision as ultimately having a negative effect on women's health. They see the life of the mother as an important factor in the abortion debate.

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Social media is a major source of news. While not registered, these participants still consume political news and follow political personalities on social media.

One participant shared that they get the majority of their news through radio because they see radio as not being controlled by corporations with agendas. Another participant said they get news from podcasts for the same reason, looking for an independent perspective. And another said they use YouTube to avoid extreme perspectives.

Participants view television news as having a corporate agenda and they prefer not to watch it because they don't trust corporations to give unbiased news. Spanish language news was seen as no different. They see them as also pushing an agenda that ultimately polarizes people.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Participants see a strong relationship between government and big business, with politicians being accountable to corporations rather than voters.

Participants believe that part of being a good citizen is to work and contribute to society. They also note that good citizens are just good people and take care of people in the community.

When asked about jury duty, one participant who is 18 years old, was not clear as to what that meant. One participant thought that the concept of being a “good citizen” was about the government trying to control people. As Latinos, they see themselves connected to both family and community, which is partially how they view their role in being a good citizen.

Participants shared they are not registered for a variety of reasons. One was disappointed in the way the Georgia government treats small businesses. This same participant had lost confidence in the election process and felt that Stacy Abrams had won. Another said they were waiting for the next presidential election to register. Another had just moved from another state and felt they were not informed enough of Georgia politics to vote, and their over consumption of news has moved them away from political participation. It's become too overwhelming.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

Trump is viewed as representing the Republican party with some calling him a racist and others describing him as a good businessman.

When asked to define liberal, one participant suggested that liberalism is a push for non-traditional morals that are counter to traditional religious beliefs. One participant associated Hillary Clinton with the Democratic Party because for them, the party stands for feminism and woman's rights. While another felt it represented division.

Trump is viewed as a successful businessman, recognizing that he did not start out with nothing. He was given opportunities and has built his wealth from those opportunities.

The Biden administration is viewed as not getting things done because they believe nothing has changed since Biden took office 2 years ago. One participant shared that viewed Biden as “deteriorating” and not the sharpest person in politics.

One participant expressed a cynical view of elected officials from both parties saying they use their position to enrich themselves. One participant said that elected politicians of both parties are more interested in serving themselves and corporations rather than their constituents. Participants expressed disappointment that neither party has delivered on immigration reform. They feel this is an example of the parties ignoring Latino issues and concerns.

One participant shared that they were hopeful for the future of Democratic politics because of new rising leaders like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, though they criticized some of her methods. One participant expressed that the Republican Party was about promoting families and traditional values and that they are more business minded than Democrats and that is why business owners support Republicans more than Democrats.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Inflations and rising costs were among the most important issues for participants. They have seen increases in gas and food.

Moderator (00:10:42):

Um, G2: J, you, you marked inflation and rising costs, what are some of the things that you see of rising in your life right now? What's going on that you see price is going up on, on what things?

G2: J (00:10:53):

Uh, gas prices.

Moderator (00:10:54):

Gas? Yeah.

Moderator (00:10:56):

Yeah.

G2: J (00:10:58):

Yeah. Mostly I see like a like more as I shop and stuff like-

Moderator (00:11:04):

More what? I'm sorry.

G2: J (00:11:04):

As I shop, like grocery shop or-

Moderator (00:11:05):

Oh, grocery shopping. Yeah. Uh-huh.

G2: J (00:11:09):

I see like, like prices going up [inaudible 00:11:11] little-

Moderator (00:11:11):

Food.

G2: I (00:11:53):

Um, pretty much the same like when I go grocery shopping and everything I, I see that that's in my pocket, especially like smaller things like milk that should be an essential and it's just the price keeps rising. But when I think about like the economy and the like inflation, I see the economy as

more as a macro level, as inf- inflation is more as a micro. Like it's affecting, you know, like people

In the discussion about the economy, participants see ordinary people losing while big businesses win.

They describe corporations as making large profits during the pandemic.

G2: R (00:13:23):

Uh, the economy is basically, uh, a country's gross national product.

G2: R (00:13:31):

It's, uh, with a product of the rise of inflation, uh, cost of living is just the reflection of what the country is producing. So if you're not producing, you're doing more import. If you're importing, uh, that mean that you're not really producing that much-

G2: R (00:13:58):

... so, uh, things tend to cost more, uh, because [inaudible 00:14:03] gross national product now.

So, uh, it's just a case of cause and effect. And we need to get back to being more of a productive relation, uh, get the, uh, import, export back into the favor of, uh, the economy, meaning, uh, we need to export a little lot more than what we importing to, uh, the economy

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

Moderator (00:14:31):

And who do you blame right now for the rising costs and inflation? Who, who would you blame if you had to bla- if you had to blame someone? Who would you blame?

G2: R (00:14:38):

Uh, I would blame it on, you know, politics, uh, and big business, you know, I mean, you know, when you have inflation, it favors big business. [inaudible 00:14:50] just whole pandemic, the companies that came out on top were big business: Walmart's, uh, Amazons, you know, all the big companies that, uh, made money. You know, there wasn't closed down. You know, they're the ones that made out good on this [inaudible 00:15:07]. So anything that, uh, they can do to tip the scales to be in their favor, I mean, they'll do.

G2: I (00:19:20):

I mean, I agree. I agree that the corporation are, you know, the ones that came out on top of all of this after the pandemic.

Participants believe that racism has always been an issue, but it wasn't until Trump entered the political landscape that individuals became more vocal in their racist rhetoric. They shared that this racist tension was not limited to White and Black. Racism against Latinos and other minority communities was cited as well.

G2: S (00:20:24):

Um, it's definitely, and then I, I think it's always been an issue, I just think that over the last couple years, um, before, um, Biden got an office and once Trump got an office that it just laid everything got on the, on the table like people [inaudible 00:20:41] was already racist, just really just felt that had the boldness to, to come out. I mean, it's, it's an all ends like, you know, that American come in, Latino community, the LGBT community, I mean, it's just Asian, um, especially with the, um, pandemic.

G2: S (00:21:05):

So I was just, it's running, it's just running, running, run in rapid, and on top of with the police, um, that those encounters, you know, the things with the KKK and all of that like, is this not to say that it ever went away or it just, I think it just hit up under table and was just waiting for, you know, the opportunity to, uh, to get the right person at office and go, go, go right on in. And somehow, I think that it's just, which is good. I think is this come to the light and [inaudible 00:21:42] it's not in the dark anymore. It's come to the light though. There's still, but there's still a lot of issues around it with that.

The cost of housing was a concern for participants as they have witnessed rents and costs of homes skyrocket over the past 5 years.

G2: J (00:22:20):

Okay. On housing costs, um, like the housing costs, the, the, prices on them with like are skyrocketed. Back then, usually, it would take like [inaudible 00:22:28], um, how it costs back then compared to the re- regular salary. Um, it would take like around eight years to, um, get a house, which the salary, well, now, it takes like 13 years with the housing costs rising up to way more than should be.

Moderator (00:22:52):

Are you feeling it at home, yourself, are you feeling it?

G2: J (00:22:55):

... yeah, well, my father had taken care of everything on the, the house and stuff. Seeing the, these expenses kinda, yeah, it's a lot.

G2: I (00:23:05):

I just like houses like apartments while I was like tryin' to find an apartment here in Atlanta, it's just ridiculous. Like for a studio, you're asking for like almost two grand. That is not even plausible, like you just can't do that.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G2: S (00:23:55):

And Georgia used to be the epitome of everyone needing to come and run down here and about like, "Oh, man, you can get, you know, quality housing or quality living without, um, you know, without the, um, what about the, the costs? Like you can get decent housing and..."

G2: R (00:24:16):

The cost of living in do- down here.

G2: S (00:24:19):

It, i- yeah, and, and now, it's, it's changing like over the last 5, 10 years. It's definitely changed, even the, even within the last five years that I've been here, like I, I had an apartment over in the perimeter area and that one bedroom that I had at that time was like between 12 and 13, which was still kinda high but between 12 and 1300, but now, that's same apartment is like 2200.

One participant commented that the middle class is shrinking, with fewer and fewer people earning good wages. They see this as lessening the strength of America.

G2: R (00:24:50):

So what we have going on here is, uh, cost of living is going up a lot quicker than wages going up and so, uh, one thing that makes Americans unique or America unique is having that larger middle class that we're talking about business, [inaudible 00:25:12] policies and inflation is shrinking the middle class. The middle class isn't, those people are leaving the middle class, they're not going up, they're going to the lower class. So you have a, uh, a bigger issue with people not being able to live the standard of living they did accustom to, and then that drives everything-

Participants believe there is a correlation between the economy and crime. When the economy is not doing well, they believe that crime increases.

Moderator (00:26:32):

Yeah. So, G2: J also mentioned crime, right?

G2: R (00:26:35):

Right.

Moderator (00:26:35):

What's going on there? Y'all haven't talked about that, can you share about the tha- what's going on there, anybody? It can be anybody, G2: J.

G2: R (00:26:41):

I think that's a, uh, that's a product of the cost of living.

G2: R (00:26:46):

You know, and, uh, they have always been able to show a correlation between, uh, you know, poverty and crime.

G2: R (00:26:54):

You know, so whenever you start stressing citizens and family people tend to go outside of the norm-

G2: R (00:27:00):

... and do, you know, vices and stuff.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

G2: S (00:28:25):

... some other cities and states. But I definitely think it's definitely went up, the shootings have went up, the, like, even just the robbing, and breaking in cars, that's the, that's went up, quite a bit, so-

G2: R (00:28:38):

I, I got something I'd like to say about it. I think whenever you start stressing, uh, the family unit, uh, you s- the morals and the values of the family start to deteriorate a lotta times. When a family is, is pressed economically, uh, you know, a lotta times it ends in divorce, uh, this causes kids, uh, and the parents to go through some sort of trauma, so, you know, trying to find your way again, uh-

G2: R (00:29:11):

... you know, kids tend to, uh, drift and get into things. So, I think it's all the fact of, uh, you know, wages not being able to keep up with cost of living.

Participants see the recent Roe vs. Wade decision as ultimately having a negative effect on women's health. They see the life of the mother as an important factor in the abortion debate.

G2: I (00:32:30):

Okay. So, I mean, I watched, like, the Supreme Court basically overturn Roe Vs. Wade, and that's a huge, like, that's a huge step for, I guess, the Supreme Court to do that. Um, it's very important to women, being a woman, um, we don't wanna revert back to our ways of having to find an abortion, if need be, through difficult ways

G2: S (00:32:59):

And I, and I think that, um, I don't think the government should be able to dictate if a person, if a woman, you know, the choice of having an abortion or not. Now, that's a different story topic if you talk about from a religious standpoint, spiritual standpoint...

G2: S (00:33:19):

... because, I, I'm, I'm Christian, and to be honest, you know (laughing) God, Jesus d- even, they, they all gave us a choice, it's the free will, you know, you can make a choice. So if that's the case, then why would human beings be able to make choices for us? The government shouldn't be able to dictate, that should be our choice whether you do it or not.

G2: R (00:33:45):

I think, uh, people tend to look at the abortion issue without looking at it in a humane way. A lotta times from the left, they'll say, "Well, it's a woman's right," but you still have to deal with that child, or that embryo that is in there, that is life. So it's not something just affecting the carrier of the child, it's something that's also affecting, um, the unborn-

G2: R (00:34:23):

So, um, the reason that I, I placed abortion so high is because not necessarily am I for it or against it, but I think it needs to be more conversation about it, so we can humanize the whole abortion issue. And at this point in time, we have just too many, you know, the morning after pill, there's so many ways that you can get around getting pregnant, and even if you were to get pregnant, you still have that morning after pill. There's so many different routes to go. maybe it might be getting a little bit too much play, but, uh, if us being Latinos, and we're looking at, you know, we look at democracy controlled by the majority. One of the things that we wanna keep going is the immigration going so we can kinda counter that, the foreign policy that made, Europeans the majority here anyway. So, one of the ways that we combat that is most Latinos are affiliated with the Catholic church, and we don't believe in abortion, so that's one of the things that combat racism, because we wanna try to get the numbers back to where we are the majority again.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Social media is a major source of news. While not registered, these participants still consume political news and follow political personalities on social media.

G2: J (00:36:00):

Uh, I get my news from, uh, like, social media.

Moderator (00:36:04):

Oh yeah.

G2: J (00:36:04):

Like, um, YouTube or Instagram, or I have a email, email, uh, morning group, that-

Moderator (00:36:10):

Morning group, uh-huh.

G2: J (00:36:13):

... sends me the news every day, the latest news that happens every day.

Moderator (00:36:20):

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. And on YouTube, do you go, what kinda stuff do you do on YouTube?

G2: J (00:36:20):

I kinda search up, like, more like the, like, political talk or YouTubers.

One participant shared that they get the majority of their news through radio because they see radio as not being controlled by corporations with agendas. Another participant said they get news from podcasts for the same reason, looking for an independent perspective. And another said they use YouTube to avoid extreme perspectives.

G2: R (00:36:58):

Um, they say radio, uh, news is a lot more, uh, impactful and they tend not to get in much of a sterilized version by the time you go through the big corporations, because as we know that most of the news corporations are controlled by big corporations, so they kinda, uh, maintain a certain narrative, whether it's the left, whether it's the right, whether it's CNN or Fox. But, uh, right in between that, you got social media, we got radio also.

G2: R (00:37:32):

There's, there's a saying that, you know, if you got your news from TV, it's probably not news anymore, it's probably old, but if you get it from radio, which, uh, tends not to be as sterilized as the regular news, don't have to go through all those channels to clear-

Moderator (00:37:52):

Mm-hmm. G2: I, where do you get your news?

G2: I (00:37:53):

Um, I listen to a Podcast that's called Breaking Points.

G2: I (00:37:57):

Um, they're inde- independent, uh, like, yeah, they're independents, these two ga- uh, it's a guy and a girl, and I believe one is on the left side, and one is on the right side. So they're always debating about their stuff, and it's always good to listen to both sides of the story before coming to your own conclusion. I also have Politico on Instagram, um, I read a lot of articles from there. And that's pretty much it. Oh, Reddit, just world news-

G2: J (00:39:31):

Oh, I'd say, um, probably YouTube more.

G2: J (00:39:35):

... 'cause there's, like, such a extremes, extremes on one side, I just really don't try to, kinda just don't try to listen to it, find someone else. I have more, I have a choice type thing.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

Participants view television news as having a corporate agenda and they prefer not to watch it because they don't trust corporations to give unbiased news. Spanish language news was seen as no different. They see them as also pushing an agenda that ultimately polarizes people.

Moderator (00:39:48):

Uh, it- G2: I, you didn't mention television, you dot watch TV news or cable or anything?

G2: I (00:39:52):

No, I don't tr- I don't really trust, like, the big corporations, like, I just don't. If I were to watch it, I used to watch CNN when I was in college-

Moderator (00:39:59):

Mm-hmm.

G2: I (00:40:01):

... just because it was something that was required of us to watch.

Moderator (00:40:04):

And why don't you trust then? I mean, what is it, what is it that make you not trust new- uh these TV stations? What makes them untrustworthy, I should say.

G2: I (00:40:11):

I mean, they all have their sides. So, I mean, if I'm listening to, let's say foc new- Fox News, I know I'm only getting one side of the story, which is why I listen to the independents, because while they're giving me their side of the stories, um, they're giving it to me at the same time, they're debating it in, like, real life in that moment.

G2: R (00:40:31):

I think what she's saying is that, you know, Fox and CNN tend to be agenda driven, uh, and you can probably get the truth by listening to both sides, but it's usually, uh, you know, they have a, kinda, you know, left to right, yeah.

G2: I (00:41:19):

Like, he was saying, they have an agenda. Like they, obviously they have to talk to their demographic, and they have to come up with the news for their demographic, so while they do that, they also, like, don't talk about the other side of the story, which makes... I don't know, I feel like when you only talk about your version of the story it makes those people angry towards whatever they're talking about.

G2: S (00:41:41):

And it just, all I think it does is with those agendas, it just creates division.

G2: I (00:41:45):

You polarize people. While not registered, some participants do follow and engage with political content on social media. One participant said they do this to help spread information.

Moderator (00:42:39):

G2: I, what about you? Do you interact with the content, or you just read it, and listen to it?

G2: I (00:42:42):

I do interact, I don't necessarily comment on it, but I do repost things. Um, I come from a political science background, that's what I did for college, so, I mean, I usually post it, like, on Facebook with both Spanish and English, so just so people can read it if, if they find it interesting. I always find that, like, like if they wanna read it, they can, they don't necessarily have to agree with me or anything, just an interesting read.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

Moderator (00:46:09):

No. Um, does, do y'all follow any, um, political pages, or candidates, or political groups online in social media right now?

G2: S (00:46:24):

Um... Um, oh, like, uh, like, Barack Obama, Michelle Obama.

Moderator (00:46:26):

Mm-hmm.

G2: S (00:46:26):

Stacey Abrams right now.

G2: I (00:46:41):

Yeah, I follow, um, the President, Joe Biden. I follow Politico on Instagram, and I think, uh, the algorithm in my Twitter, the way it's set up, it gives me political news of Georgia.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Participants see a strong relationship between government and big business, with politicians being accountable to corporations rather than voters.

G2: R (00:15:22):

A lot of ti- a lot of time that people look at politics and big business, they look at it in a relationship that politics controls big business, but it's big business that pays politicians [inaudible 00:15:37] reverse role. He who feels is who dictates what happens. So I think in people's mind they got it somewhat twisted about the relationship between politics and big business. Big business dictate the politics, the politics doesn't dictate the business.

Moderator (00:15:58):

have a comment on what G2: R just said?

G2: S (00:16:00):

I mean, I agree, I mean, essentially, but overall, in overall, government but it's the official that are, politicians that are elected in the go- you know, in the government as well, so the big corporations and all of that, yeah, I, I agree exactly [inaudible 00:16:16] and then also to add to, um, not only his food and gas but I'm in-

G2: R (00:17:38):

I think when you look at the relationship, uh, when you look at, uh, big business and politics, they always hear this saying, uh, politics is in the big, big business, pharmaceutical industries and those type of things. That's what it, in my opinion, you know, they push certain things, you know, during the pandemic, so that the people who are [inaudible 00:18:02] their pockets, the politicians [inaudible 00:18:04] pocket is being [inaudible 00:18:05] by the pharmaceutical companies, they're like one of the biggest lobbyist when you go to DC, uh, the pharmaceutical company.

G2: R (00:18:12):

Uh, and when you constantly have lobbyists up in DC dictate, uh, dictate, which you would call the policy, the domestic policy, uh, of the American citizens, you know, they have tendency to push things toward to be more profitable to them because they constantly feeding them. Now if you have a, a marketing [inaudible 00:18:42], and Latino community, uh, you know, we can get out and vote, but if we don't have a stable, uh, economy within our own, uh, merchant class of businesses, if we don't have that, we're not able to pay politicians like everybody else, because, you know, they won't appreciate your role, but they will accept the check. And check is what counts really.

G2: R (00:59:28):

And I think the more you understand about the political process, the more you're empowered. Uh, I think... what's more important than voting is being able to be like the Asian community. The Asian community has the lowest turnout when it comes to voting but they tend to control their communities that they, uh, reside in or that they have business in. Because, you know, the money that they contribute. So, uh, I happen to stay in Cobb county where uh the predominant people there, their political views on being more conservative tend to reflect what I believe in. So it's in a good position right now to stay that way.

Moderator (01:00:28):

Look, i don't want to put words in your mouth but so what I think I'm hearing you saying is that money matters more than your vote.

G2: R (01:00:38):

Right.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES CONT

Participants believe that part of being a good citizen is to work and contribute to society. They also note that good citizens are just good people and take care of people in the community.

Moderator (00:47:22):

I wanna move to the topic now to talk a little bit about what it means to be a good citizen. And I don't mean citizen like in the sense of, like, citizenship of the United States. I mean just, like, what are your duties and obligations in, in society? What, what does it mean to be a good citizen, anybody?

G2: R (00:47:42):

To be productive, uh, to promote, uh, community, and communities are [inaudible 00:47:50] by families, so-

Moderator (00:47:50):

Mm-hmm. Productive. What does that mean, productive?

G2: R (00:47:53):

Uh, well it's, uh, being able to contribute to society as a whole whether it's in the workforce uh, whether it's into building families, and families build communities, and communities build a nation.

G2: I (00:48:19):

I would just say just to be a good person in general.

G2: I (00:48:29):

Like, uh, not being harmful towards people, and just-

G2: I (00:48:31):

... doing whatever you have to do, like, just be productive, you know.

G2: I (00:48:35):

Do whatever you, like, I guess, like, tend to yourself, while to your community as well.

G2: J (00:48:55):

I'd say, like, pay taxes, be productive, like, that's it mostly.

G2: S (00:49:23):

Um, I mean, I would say very, just helping each other out, serving your, um, community. I mean, just doing life together, because I mean, you stand in a bubble or in your own, your own view of things, I mean, that doesn't help out the world or society, or people or anything like that. So I, I think that it's about being there for others, serving others, and, um, just, just being able to do (laughs), do life

When asked about jury duty, this participant who is 18 years old, it's not easy and you can't do that by yourself, so-

G2: J (00:50:19):

Um, not, I'm not sure much what that is really.

One participant thought that the concept of being a "good citizen" was about government trying to control people.

G2: S (00:50:28):

It's interesting though to me when you say, uh, be a, a good citizen, it almost kinda sounds like a controlled type of an environment, or a control narrative there. Like, you know, do what the government says. 'Cause and even as an example is jury duty, it's, like, we're talking about, like, humanity things, and helping each other out, you know, and serving others, but we're talking about on the other ends, like, oh, jury duty, and, um, just paying your, paying your taxes or something like that, like, a good, being a good citizen. It just kinda sounds kinda just kinda controlled.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES CONT

As Latinos, they see themselves connected to both family and community, which is partially how they view their role in being a good citizen.

Moderator (00:52:03):

Does being Latino play a role at all in how we view what it means to be in front of the society?

G2: R (00:52:09):

I think that we try to integrate ourselves into society as much as possible. But we already come with a strong foundation of family. So, that within itself, is where societies are built upon, you know? That nucleus of the family. So we always like to promote families and communities. So I think we are actually contributing to society because we're so rooted into it

Moderator (00:52:38):

Itsy, what do you think?

G2: I (00:52:39):

I mean, like what he said. I just- I grew up in a big family so it's always, like, contributing to our little family. But that's not to say that we don't help the whole entire community. If we can and are able to, we will help. And that's what's being considered- what we can't deal with.

Participants shared they are not registered for a variety of reasons. One was disappointed in the way the Georgia government treats small businesses. This same participant had lost confidence in the election process and felt that Stacy Abrams had won. Another said they were waiting for the next presidential election to register. Another had just moved from another state and felt they were not informed enough of Georgia politics to vote, and their over consumption of news has moved them away from political participation. It's become too overwhelming.

G2: S (00:53:51):

And the way- how, how Georgia... everything is just about money, money, money, money. Um, just trying to even start a business, you know? And incorporating your business. Or if your business gets dissolved then the amount of money they want to redissolve it is just like- Michigan is like 50 bucks. Here they want \$250. So it's just like, "Are you kidding me right now?"

G2: S (00:55:29):

And then with that election with the governors, um- with Kemp and Stacy Abram. That just- and then the things that he did with that vote- the whole voting. That whole voting process was...

G2: S (00:55:43):

I tolerate it.

Moderator (00:55:48):

Tell me a bit more about that. So you think that Stacy Abrams should have won?

G2: S (00:55:51):

Yeah.

G2: S (00:55:52):

She definitely had it. I just think that, you know?

Moderator (00:55:56):

And what makes you feel that way?

G2: S (00:55:59):

Just because of the - all the things that Kemp was doing during the time of the voting. Taking away the poll Locations, that were already set up. Something about even with the Count?

G2: S (00:56:17):

I believe it was completely off- like she won that.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES CONT

Moderator (00:56:52):

What's kept you from registering?

G2: J (00:56:54):

I'm just waiting until the last minute for the next presidential vote.

Moderator (00:56:59):

You're just waiting for the next presidential?

G2: J (00:57:00):

Yeah.

G2: I (00:57:26):

So I was registered to vote in North Carolina. So when I moved here... I think I'm registered to vote in North Carolina, just not in Georgia.

G2: I (00:57:34):

Yeah.

Moderator (00:57:34):

And do you plan on registering to vote? Is this something you're not interested in anymore? Are you - are you like G2: S, and you're just... you're done or do you think you still want to stay involved?

Moderator (00:57:42):

Talk to me a little bit about where you are.

G2: I (00:57:44):

Yeah, I'm definitely going to stay involved. Just... I need to get my ducks in a row before I do. I guess.

Moderator (00:57:51):

What do you mean?

G2: I (00:57:53):

Just like, you know, moving to a whole new city with nobody here. You kind of just want to settle in and then I'll deal with the political side of Georgia. (laughs)

G2: I (00:58:02):

It's a mess. Sorry I just want to be more informed. I don't want to just go out there and vote, you know? I want to be more informed about their laws, their policies, you know?

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

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

G2: I (01:15:06):

I mean, I put... I put Donald Trump (laughs) just because he... basically invited the Republican party. He was a conservative and... I don't know, yeah. It's the way that I see him.

Moderator (01:15:20):

That's what you put down, Donald Trump?

G2: I (01:15:21):

Mm-hmm.

Moderator (01:15:24):

And what did you put for the Republican, G2: R?

G2: R (01:15:26):

I put, uh, 'Traditional'; 'Family values'; and you can move the 'Traditional' to 'Family Values' - I think they're very comprehensive enthusiasts man. I heard them say that Trump-

Moderator (01:15:44):

Yeah.

G2: R (01:15:44):

Uh, kind of... uh, exhibits where the Republican is. I think with Trump, really, he's a businessman. And a lot of people tend to, uh, look at things in the business manner more than the social manner.

Moderator (01:16:04):

Do you consider him a successful businessman?

G2: R (01:16:05):

Yes. I would consider him successful.

When asked to define liberal, one participant suggested that liberalism is a push for non-traditional morals that are counter to traditional religious beliefs.

G2: R (01:09:08):

Liberal would mean, as we say, open-mindedness. Which can go, you know, for better or worse. Um, one thing I put is, 'experimental', they're willing to try 'non-traditional' paths to building a society or reshape the society. Um, 'non-traditional morals.'

Moderator (01:09:36):

'Non-traditional morals...they tend to go in a different direction then I guess you could say traditional church values would, uh, illustrate.

Moderator (01:09:55):

So would call that immoral? Or do you think it's different morality?

G2: R (01:09:59):

Um, the word I used was 'non-traditional'.

G2: R (01:10:03):

Uh, not necessarily no morals. It's just different from what the country was founded and what the country promoted.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

One participant associated Hillary Clinton with the Democratic Party because for them, the party stands for feminism and woman's rights. While another felt it represented division.

Moderator (01:10:20):

What did you write, G2: I, under Democrats?

G2: I (01:10:22):

I put Hillary Clinton.

Moderator (01:10:27):

Does she represent? Is that what comes to mind when you? What is it about her and the democratic party?

G2: I (01:10:34):

I guess that it would be that they target certain, like, minority demographics. That being a woman, or a minority. So, I just-

Moderator (01:10:44):

And what does she represent to you?

G2: I (01:10:46):

I guess she represented the vote of the women. Which is what the democratic party wanted during that time.

Moderator (01:11:37):

G2: S, what did you write for Democrat?

G2: S (01:11:40):

Um, I wrote 'Justice'; 'Agenda'; 'Division'; 'Help from the government'; 'Free [inaudible 01:11:45].

Moderator (01:11:45):

'Division', what do you mean?

G2: S (01:11:50):

Um, that party... I mean it's one sided. So automatically it creates division and separation.

Trump is viewed as a successful businessman, recognizing that he did not start out with nothing. He was given opportunities and has built his wealth from those opportunities.

G2: R (01:15:44):

Uh, kind of... uh, exhibits where the Republican is. I think with Trump, really, he's a business man. And a lot of people tend to, uh, look at things in the business manner more than the social manner.

Especially if you're in business

Moderator (01:16:04):

Do you consider him a successful businessman?

G2: R (01:16:05):

Yes. I would consider him successful.

Moderator (01:16:08):

How about you, G2: I? Do you think Trump is a successful businessman?

G2: I (01:16:12):

I think he did really well, for the amount of money that he was given. He didn't necessarily pick himself up by his boot straps, as what the Republican claim to be. He was handed that money and then he made his fortune. Well actually, he tanked his first. But then he made a fortune doing what he does.

G2: I (01:16:33):

So yeah, I mean, he did.

Moderator (01:16:33):

Are you saying from his family or are you talking about from being elected in office?

G2: I (01:16:37):

Both. From his family, he definitely got millions and that-

Um, that party... I mean it's one sided. So automatically it creates division and separation.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

The Biden administration is viewed as not getting things done because they believe nothing has changed since Biden took office 2 years ago. One participant shared that viewed Biden as “deteriorating” and not the sharpest person in politics.

G2: R (01:21:56):

I think they use the Latino vote and everything that relates to the Latino vote. The biggest thing has been immigration. I think they've taken the humanitarian issue and politicized it. And both parties are involved in it now because it was Trump who set up the new detention centers that's at the southern border. But the Biden administration has been here almost two years now and hasn't changed anything.

G2: I (01:19:57):

I don't know. He's kind of deteriorating. So I just feel kinda... I just feel bad. I just, I don't like to think of him.

Moderator (01:20:06):

Deteriorating in what way?

G2: I (01:20:07):

In every sense. He's just... Yeah, he's not great.

G2: R (01:20:14):

He's not the sharpest tool, as they would say, I guess.

G2: S (01:20:16):

Brightest color crayon in the color box. (laughing)

One participant expressed a cynical view of elected officials from both parties saying they use their position to enrich themselves. One participant said that elected politicians of both parties are more interested in serving themselves and corporations rather than their constituents.

G2: R (01:18:38):

The Democratic Party benefits from business, those who are playing in the leading roles, but they don't promote it to their voters.

Moderator (01:18:48):

So, can you give us an example of someone that takes that?

G2: R (01:18:52):

That's in the Democratic Party?

Moderator (01:18:53):

Mm-hmm. That's doing what you just said.

G2: R (01:18:58):

The party, both parties within themselves, are funded by business.

G2: R (01:19:02):

So they get the inside scoop on trading everything, but they don't promote that to their base.

Moderator (01:24:31):

Okay. G2: S, what about you? Negative or positive view of the Democratic Party?

G2: S (01:24:36):

I'm really in the middle.

G2: S (01:24:39):

Because I think both parties have their own agenda that they're trying to come across, and, I mean, there are some positives... There's some positive things.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

Moderator (01:24:51):

You said an agenda for both parties. Who, so who are those agendas serving if they're not serving you? Who are these agendas serving?

G2: S (01:25:00):

Mm. Themselves. The, you know, um, politically. The pharmaceutical companies, the, the big corporations, food administration, like the major corporations.

Participants expressed disappointment that neither party has delivered on immigration reform. They feel this is an example of the parties ignoring Latino issues and concerns.

Moderator (01:21:29):

Well, I wanna ask, do you think the parties are inviting to Latinos, or do you think they're hostile, and they ignore Latinos? What do you think? How do political parties interact with the Latino community?

G2: I (01:21:43):

I think they want our vote when it comes to voting terms, and then they disregard us once they have it. When they have it, they disregard us.

G2: I (01:21:50):

They just don't do anything. They don't do anything to help us

G2: R (01:21:56):

I think they use the Latino vote and everything that relates to the Latino vote. Like, the biggest thing has been immigration. I think they've taken the humanitarian issue and politicized it. And both parties are involved in it now because it was Trump who set up the new detention centers that's at the southern border. But the Biden administration has been here almost two years now and hasn't changed anything. We still have those same issues that are going on there. So I think he's just holding those people almost hostage because a lot of people have already got clearance and already had back- background checks. But they're holding them, people in those detention centers, instead of disseminating them out.

One participant shared that they were hopeful for the future of Democratic politics because of new rising leaders like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, though they criticized some of her methods.

Moderator (01:23:33):

Okay. What about you? Negative or positive view of the Democrat Party?

G2: I (01:23:36):

I would say negative, but I'm hopeful.

Moderator (01:23:38):

Hopeful, what gives you hope?

G2: I (01:23:41):

I guess, new generations coming in and changing how, I guess, they handle policies.

Moderator (01:23:48):

Is there any particular politician that comes to mind when you think of that or just generally speaking?

G2: I (01:23:53):

I wouldn't just say, generally speaking. I mean, I know AOC has tried to make, like, a few changes, but I don't know. Sometimes I feel like she needs to understand how to control the narrative a little bit, how she presents herself because she can be seen as loud, which is a bad thing. She needs to be able to, I guess, control herself, while doing good things.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 2

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

One participant expressed that the Republican Party was about promoting families and traditional values and that they are more business minded than Democrats and that is way business owners support Republicans more than Democrats.

Moderator (01:26:37):

What about you? Positive or negative of the Republican [Party]?

G2: R (01:26:43):

Um, I'm gonna say just off of what they run on, I mean, the Republican Party is known for promoting families and accountability.

G2: R (01:26:55):

Traditional values, those types of things. And then just being more business minded. There's a lot of things that, you know, we won't be able to change within our lifetime.

G2: R (01:27:09):

But I think if you were more business minded, sometimes you tend to favor the Republican Party because you're a business person.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

Key Findings for Group 1

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Inflation and the economy were described as important and participants defined the economy in terms of the costs of goods such as gas, groceries, and the cost of housing which were considered a major part of the economy. The rising cost of housing was viewed as hurting working families who had to continue working during the pandemic.

Much of the economic problems that have persisted because of the pandemic were blamed on the government stimulus checks. Participants expressed this disincentivized people to work and caused prices to increase. They see themselves as hardworking and not a part of the problem.

One participant felt immigration was an important issue because immigrants who are hardworking are being deported. They describe Trump as a racist, white nationalist and this quality is the motivation behind his immigration policies.

The overall conversation about most important issues included a lot of talk about President Biden and Trump, without being prompted. They see a connection between these important issues and the person who serves as President. One expressed that they support Trump because they earned more under his administration.

Most participants agree that crime is a major issue and they have seen crime rising in their communities, including their local shopping mall. One participant believed that the increase in crime was associated with the Black Lives Matter movement, claiming it had emboldened certain people of color and given them a “pass” to commit crimes. Another blamed the rise in crime on inflation and fewer police.

On the issue of abortion, it was expressed by several in the group that abortions should remain legal for cases of rape or if the fetus would not survive or suffer. One female participant feels it is not right that the government would make such important choices for women. One participant who supports abortion rights commented that abortion should not be used as a “hobby” or birth control.

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Most of the participants shared that they get a majority of their news through social media, primarily facebook, and they consume news in Spanish with a focus on both the US and foreign countries.

Google was mentioned as a trusted source used to get more information about a story in the news. Participants mentioned getting emails of news that include local news events.

One participant believed the presidential election of 2020 was stolen and those behind the stealing were trying to establish a new “world order.” They also expressed conspiracy theories around the pandemic and the vaccine.

The participants prefer Spanish Language news over English because they find it easier to understand. Overall, there appeared to be a distrust of news media, with differing opinions on how the media present stories. Some participants say all the news channels report the exact same story the same way. To others, news stations don’t cover complete stories so consumers have to visit multiple news sources to get a complete account of what happened.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

There were mixed attitudes about YouTube, with one participant believing that the platform is highly monitored resulting in a large amount of censoring. Another participant believed that if they use the platform they will get delivered on-line ads about the topics they searched.

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Participants expressed that they believe it is the responsibility of the family to teach civic behavior however, they see the family unit as in decline.

Quality family time was described as sitting at the kitchen table at mealtime and not pulling out the cell phone. Technology was described as a threat to families.

One participant described voting as confusing and they were uncertain about the entire process. Another described voting as important and something that had been passed on from their home countries where it was mandatory. Their perspectives are informed by first-hand experience.

One participant took a religious perspective to describe the duty of a good citizen. They believe that the bible serves as a guide for behavior.

Participants shared that they registered to vote at a young age, while others shared that they registered to vote because of Obama's presidential election.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

The Democratic party was described as not fulfilling the promises that were made on student loans, the economy, and immigration. Participants expressed disappointment in this inaction. Views of the parties are framed from their personal lived experiences from their home countries.

For some, neither party is seen in a positive light. Both are thought to be corrupt and were compared to Latin American countries. One participant shared she identified more with the Republican party, despite this, because of its more religious values. Another supports the Republican Party because they are steadfast in their beliefs.

One participant expressed that she was disappointed in Biden spending money on Ukraine rather than using money to help struggling Americans at home. While another defended him, saying that while not every campaign promise was fulfilled, it was because of the pandemic.

Trump is viewed negatively when it comes to racism but viewed his time in office positively because the economy was perceived to be better under his leadership.

Several expressed that the United States offered false hope to those who want to come to the U.S. for a better life.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Inflation and the economy were described as important and participants defined the economy in terms of the costs of goods such as gas, groceries, and the cost of housing which were considered a major part of the economy. The rising cost of housing was viewed as hurting working families who had to continue working during the pandemic.

[00:12:26] G3: J: It's just that in my opinion, everything that's happened in the last two years people stopped working. By a miracle, I could buy a house in 2020 already when all this was starting. From the moment my wife, family and I moved in, we miraculously got a good price on the house. Already now the house has increased in value by over \$150,000. If we waited a little longer, we were not going to get a house. With gasoline, everything, one has to work harder.

[00:13:18] G3: J: For me, the economy stopped because people stopping working, the government gave [them] money.

[00:15:36] G3: CE: Just when you go to the store everything is already up. In milk, you used to pay \$1.89 per half gallon. Now it's up to almost \$3, all of it. Your paycheck that you receive weekly or every two weeks to pay the rent, the car, bills, etc. bills and they've already raised everything. They leave you less for the groceries that cost you and you have to eat.

Much of the economic problems that have persisted because of the pandemic were blamed on the government stimulus checks. Participants expressed this disincentivized people to work and caused prices to increase. They see themselves as hardworking and not a part of the problem.

[00:13:26] G3: J: Yes, because of the pandemic. [The government] gave money. I'm not saying they didn't deserve it, but the people who were working like me, I didn't stop working. There were a lot of people getting more than I was earning. This discourages one. I say, "You know what? Why didn't I quit my job?". At the same time, this money was only temporary.

Then I realized that all this has to be paid for again. The economy that was already restored for a moment, food, gasoline, houses, although they are already lowering the value of the houses, the interest is increasing because of the value. Rent, if you live in a one-bedroom apartment you pay almost double what we were paying five years ago. It gets harder the more you have to spend. You get used to it.

[00:14:49] G3: J: Let's say, people who lost their jobs. Like Delta, they lost many workers. Many organizations that had essential workers. [If] I didn't want to work and worked hours.....I would quit the job. They were going to give me \$900, on top of the unemployment benefits the state was giving me, I was earning much more. It is more valuable to me not to work and earn that. Everything about protection, everything about the cost of workers, everything increased.

[00:15:36] G3: CE: Just when you go to the store everything is already up. In milk, you used to pay \$1.89 per half gallon. Now it's up to almost \$3, all of it. Your paycheck that you receive weekly or every two weeks to pay the rent, the car, bills, etc. bills and they've already raised everything. They leave you less for the groceries that cost you and you have to eat.

[00:16:16] G3: CE: The pandemic is largely to blame, I understand, but also Biden giving money, as he says. A lot of people had jobs, their hours were cut, but they saw that they were getting paid, they earned more. I did hear people say, "We earn more when we are in the house". When there are no employees now, prices go up, there are no employees to do this, there are no employees to do that.

[00:16:49] Moderator: Does anyone agree with what CE says about Biden or maybe it's the other way around? K, do you agree?

[00:16:55] G3: K: I do agree regardless. A lot of people think that with Biden--I voted for Biden, yes, and if he comes back I won't vote for him.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

[00:17:13] Moderator: Why not?

[00:17:16] G3: K: Because it seems to me that he is not doing anything for his country. He's doing something like I say, "Why is he spending and sending billions to Ukraine while your country is suffering? There are little things like this that just don't--

One participant felt immigration was an important issue because immigrants who are hardworking are being deported. They describe Trump as a racist, white nationalist and this quality is the motivation behind his immigration policies.

[00:23:44] G3: I: To me the immigration part—I always felt that for me Trump doesn't agree with immigrants being here, because he has a way of thinking that is respectable. I don't really want to delve into that, but for me he is a person who comes first and foremost from an upbringing and a background in which racism is the most important thing for him. The type of breed he comes from is a German type of breed, if you can call it that, in that they did not allow mixing of breeds. For me, he was very categorical in that part, in the immigration part, of the immigrants during his time in office. Moreover, there were many raids, many people totally taken out of this country [like] animals, because that's how we saw it. So, what happened? Hispanics and Latinos who could vote, when it came time to vote, went against him and supported Biden. Biden was presenting a partial solution to the immigrants. It has not been fulfilled? It has not been complied with. I think something, that presidents always surround themselves—People who are in government and who get to the presidency, he doesn't get to the presidency by himself. It is an immense machinery that everything is coldly calculated and well synchronized. He doesn't get on because, "I want to be the president and I'm going to get on," no. It is a machine that has a number of components and people around it and he is not the only one in charge. There are a few people in charge there, a lot of people in charge around him. Suddenly the intentions that he had, as the hook to grab the Hispanics and Latinos who voted for him a lot, that was like the backing that the immigrants had to feel that they were going to have an endorsement. Notice that there is a very famous lawyer that when he gave the notice that all the people that had entered until 2020, until December 31, 2020, were going to be legalized. I think we all heard that news, didn't we? Everyone was happy that it was going to be that far. Recently they issued a new decree, something like this, an order in which people were until 2014. People who entered until 2014 or until 2011, sorry, were going to be legalized. What's up? That he suddenly had very good intentions. He grabbed that hook to do it, but they haven't let him do it because of all the things we've known. That is my opinion.

The overall conversation about most important issues included a lot of talk about President Biden and Trump, without being prompted. They see a connection between these important issues and the person who serves as President. One expressed that they support Trump because they earned more under his administration.

[00:28:14] G3: A: [This is] what I'm getting at... for example, when we were with him, we were totally independent with our money. To a certain extent because we have Uncle Sam, but Biden came in, soon after that they started-- For example, people who have Venmo, who have Cash App and all that, if you send more than \$600 you are reported to the IRS. They are controlling your money. As of yesterday, it seems to me, the day before yesterday, they were going to pass the new regulation of the new law that they want to hire more IRS agents, too. I feel that they want to control the economy more. When Mr. Trump was around, your money you earn it, you spend it and you know how. He was not intervening individually. If you work, your money is yours. Logical, as long as you pay your taxes was fine. Right now they are controlling us economically.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

Most participants agree that crime is a major issue and they have seen crime rising in their communities, including their local shopping mall. One participant believed that the increase in crime was associated with the Black Lives Matter movement, claiming it had emboldened certain people of color and given them a “pass” to commit crimes. Another blamed the rise in crime on inflation and fewer police.

[00:29:34] G3: K: I think crime is at an all-time high right now. I have never seen crime so high. I'll tell you one thing. I'm not a racist at all, but I think that after this Black Lives Matter thing happened, crime has gone up a lot more, because I feel like if you're a person of color, I mean, brown, if you do something wrong, "No. It's okay, because they're going to say Black Lives Matter," and you have more of a right to do it. I tell you, I'm not a racist, but I've seen that crime of brown people has gone up a lot and all over the country. Crime is... Here in Atlanta. I never almost heard it in Cobb County and in Cobb County you hear it I think more than in Fulton. Every day you hear about crime here in Cobb. I have never heard so much crime here in Cobb.

[00:30:42] G3: J: Over 14 years, me and my family would always go to Phipps Plaza Lenox. Since the crime started there, nobody knows [what's going to happen] anymore.

[00:31:09] G3: J: Part of that problem is because of inflation, that people want to look for easy ways to grab money. Whenever I watch the news someone is getting shot. Just at my work, I saw a friend where Rayshard Brooks' estate happened...just a few days ago that a person shot himself because he killed his wife. The police already had him, but instead of letting them catch him, he shot himself, he took his own life. After they started to disrespect the police officers--I am not saying that all the police officers are doing the right thing, but after they started with this saying "I am recording you", then they lost a lot of police officers. That's not an opinion; that's facts, that is the truth. There are no more policemen who want to work. Now everywhere you look there are signs, "We'll give you \$5,000 if you come to get started with Georgia State Patrol." Or the county, Fulton County, wherever there are no police. They don't want to do their job anymore, because what are they going to do? People are going to get out of jail in a hurry, they are going to create difficult situations and commit more crimes. I see this on the internet, I watch the news every day. I don't even watch TV anymore because of that.

[00:33:11] G3: K: Let's assume, the New York District Attorney is removing all the people who commit crime, not leaving them there. They are taken out of jail. So what is their punishment? They will not learn. Crime will rise and no one is taking responsibility, even though he is in the government.

On the issue of abortion, it was expressed by several in the group that abortions should remain legal for cases of rape or if the fetus would not survive or suffer. One female participant feels it is not right that the government would make such important choices for women. One participant who supports abortion rights commented that abortion should not be used as a “hobby” or birth control.

[00:33:49] G3: K: I think that right now they are not giving us the right as women to decide. I'm not saying it's right to do it, but there are circumstances in which it must be done. Let's suppose, a girl of 12, 14, 18, whatever, who was raped, how can you not leave her [pregnant] if she doesn't want that child? How are you going to let the child come into the world and not grow up with a stable family?

[00:34:31] G3: CE: Each case is separate.

[00:34:32] G3: K: Each case is separate, yes.

[00:34:33] G3: CE: Depends on what happened to you or whatever.

[00:34:35] G3: K: There are some who do it as a hobby and that's wrong, yes, but there are circumstances in which I think it should be. I work in the hospital and I work in the operating room. There are circumstances not of rape, because we don't do it, because that's a clinic outside, but let's assume, a girl, little girl who has problems with her heart and needs an abortion--there are circumstance-

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 1: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES CONT

I don't like to go in, but not all people want to go in and help the doctor do these things, but I do. There are circumstances in which I believe this should be done.

[00:35:26] Moderator: G3: CS, what do you think about abortion? Since you are a man, I wanted to know. Do you agree?

[00:35:28] G3: CS: I agree with her that abortion in certain cases should be accepted. Yes, the person should be given the opportunity to decide, because there really are conditions where you definitely say, "Such a little girl, or rape."

[00:35:47] G3: CE: Or a disease.

[00:35:48] G3: CS: Or a disease that has already been completely decided that the fetus is not well, that it is going to be a person that is going to present a problem in its life and that it is not going to have a normal life, is acceptable.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Most of the participants shared that they get a majority of their news through social media, primarily facebook, and they consume news in Spanish with a focus on both the US and foreign countries.

[00:38:04] Moderator: G3: I, where do you go to see your news or get your news? Where are you going?

[00:38:09] G3: I: With the little time I have left. [laughs] I manage social networks, I look at them. For example, here in Atlanta I sometimes watch the Hispatlanta news, which is more informed than it is.

[00:39:26] G3: I: Facebook, Instagram. I use Instagram a lot. I don't like Twitter, I find it very sectorized. Sometimes I watch news from my country or sometimes I watch CNN in Spanish.

[00:39:54] G3: A: On the iPhone you have the one from NewsBreak. I always see the header or I get the header in the email and then I look for what it is about.

[00:41:40] Moderator: G3: J, where do you get most of your news?

[00:41:44] G3: J: Instagram, Facebook, Google or Morning Group. It's something that comes to my email. It just explains what is going to happen, what are the most important things that have happened in the economy.

[00:42:01] Moderator: Is that from the nation or just local?

[00:42:05] G3: J: From across the nation. He talks about Russia, he talks about Ukraine, he talks about everything. Then it tells you how Nasdaq, stock percentages are going down. That's all you read and technically what all the newscasts explain.

[00:42:42] G3: CS: Instagram I do use, but not that much. I am also sometimes guided by that. I also watch some television channels. For example, NTN, which is a Latin American network covering many countries, I watch Caracol Internacional from Colombia from time to time. RCN International as well.

Google was mentioned as a trusted source used to get more information about a story in the news. Participants mentioned getting emails of news that include local news events

[00:41:29] G3: K: An email comes to me. "You know this happened." In Google when I want to do search to something, which I do every day, you see what happens here in the city.

[00:41:40] Moderator: G3: J, where do you get most of your news?

[00:41:44] G3: J: Instagram, Facebook, Google or Morning Group. It's something that comes to my email. It just explains what is going to happen, what are the most important things that have happened in the economy.

One participant believed the presidential election of 2020 was stolen and those behind the stealing were trying to establish a new "world order." They also expressed conspiracy theories around the pandemic and the vaccine.

[00:21:14] G3: L: Speaking of politics, I voted for Trump and would vote for him again. vote for him again. I am also a Christian. Justly taking CS' verse, "For lack of knowledge the people of God perish". I read a lot of sources. I believe that the elections were stolen, they were adulterated, they were manipulated. Therefore, Mr. Biden is a usurper and obviously with a purpose. There is an agenda behind it all which is to establish a new world order. There are videos, there is information from Obama's time and even before. Different people in very influential political positions worldwide are practically promoting the establishment of a new order. I believe that the pandemic was propaganda to contribute to the fulfillment of that agenda and the establishment of that new order. Affecting the economy, obviously affecting people's health, more with a panic propaganda, misinformation and even manipulation in the treatment of the symptoms of the alleged COVID in hospitals with medicines that threaten people's lives.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

What killed people was not COVID but a medicine, a bad protocol.

The participants prefer Spanish Language news over English language because they find it easier to understand.

00:43:04] Moderator: What do you think between news in English and news in Spanish? Which one is better? Are they the same? How do you see the two?

[00:43:17] G3: CS: I prefer in Spanish, obviously. In English I am quite fluent, but I prefer to listen to them in Spanish, because I can digest them a little better because it is my native language. My English has been a process, I practiced many years ago. After my engineering profession, I spent many years and have been retired for a long time. I had the opportunity to be in Germany and everything was in English. I prefer it in this very specific topic, that you have to digest the news well.

[00:43:47] Moderator: How do [they] present it different?

[00:43:50] G3: CS: I think it's different. The presentation itself of Hispanic speakers is a little different than that of American speakers. I prefer to address a news item in my native language, which I can understand a little better, I can digest it a little better.

Overall, there appeared to be a distrust of news media, with differing opinions on how the media present stories. Some participants say all the news channels report the exact same story the same way. To others, news stations don't cover complete stories so consumers have to visit multiple news sources to get a complete account of what happened.

[00:47:07] Moderator: Which one do you trust the most? Is there one you trust more and why do you trust one more than another?

[00:47:13] G3: I: Preferably this way of trusting or something, you look at something and you say, "It's here the same, it's on CNN, it's on News, it's everywhere the same thing."

[00:48:09] G3: L: And that's interesting, because according to Telegram channels, I watch only Telegram but through that I find out about CNN, because they effectively repeat, the narrative is exactly the same, it happens at the moment when Channel One is saying it, Channel Two is saying it, Channel Three is saying it, Channel Four is saying it, the channels I follow are in English, and it's identical. Someone wrote that script, that narrative.

[00:48:47] G3: I: That parameter for it to be repeated.

[00:48:50] G3: J: The reason why I agree very much with I, is when my son passed away, Univision said one thing, that's in the news, Telemundo said something else, Fox News said something else. I had to watch all those news to make the picture, to see everything, what happened.

[00:49:17] G3: A: Same thing. The same thing happened to me with my son because my son when he passed away in a car accident, and the local news said it was a head-on collision, even the headline said, "Head-on collision," and my son had passed away. My son was not driving, he was a passenger in the back, and only my son died. How can it be a head-on collision if the car my son was in was clean from the front? A race car hit him from behind, spun him around and threw

There were mixed attitudes about YouTube, with one participant believing that the platform is highly monitored resulting in a large amount of censoring. Another participant believed that if they use the platform they will get delivered on-line ads about the topics they searched.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 2: NEWS CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA CONT

00:50:26] Moderator: No one has said anything about YouTube, how is it on YouTube?

[00:50:31] G3: I: YouTube is also a problem. [laughs]

[cross talk]

[00:50:35] G3: L: I don't see it because it's super censored.

[00:50:39] G3: I: Yes, in news yes.

[00:50:39] G3: L: When it comes out, for example, in the pandemic, the German scientist came out, explained how graphene, which is present in vaccines, was causing sudden deaths or sudden collapses in athletes. [He] showed it on YouTube, [the video] lasted as long as they let it last and in the end they killed the doctor. That doctor died, but YouTube re-censored. That is one of the reasons why we don't...

[00:51:22] G3: K: I just watch videos on YouTube when I get about nine videos to watch. I don't get on YouTube much either like, I do watch it through Google, the news and everything, but I try not to YouTube and stuff, because if I want to watch the news and I put like, "Crime in Atlanta," then I get [those topics to] come up like [on] Instagram, my Yahoo!, Facebook. I get a lot of things like, "I just asked you". How do the other accounts know I was looking for this? I try to avoid all that, because I know I'm going to get a lot of stuff on that social media, so I try not to, just use Google, what I have there just like that, but I try not to do it.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Participants expressed that they believe it is the responsibility of family to teach civic behavior however, they see the family unit as in decline.

[00:53:27] G3: L: I believe that a good citizen starts at home, at home, loving the family. The family is the basic cell of society. That's what I was taught as a child. Today, that basic cell that is the family is so damaged, so affected, I don't know what the other term is, so - I don't know what the other term is, so-.

[00:53:51] G3: CS: Fractured.

[00:53:52] G3: L: Thank you. Exactly. You are no longer the family of dad, mom and kids, this is where the gender ideology or the single mother, single father concept comes from. Without judging anyone, this whole new reality affects our society, because a child raised with only one parent lacks the image of the other parent. I know that there are children who have two separated parents, but, they are there looking out for him and may well be affecting their child, but this is not the case for everyone. There are women who have children of a different father just to collect pensions, for example, and so on.

Returning to

citizenship. From that point on, we are already forming a broken, damaged society, which is going to be affected.

[00:55:46] G3: A: Why are we going to make ourselves look good? One of the things you both said, "Society." Actually, for me, society is one thing. My society for me is my home and my children. What I was saying, education. Education, as she said, will always start at home. Education, what we instill in our children from an early age, is the mentality that they will carry and grow up with.

Quality family time was described as sitting at the kitchen table at mealtime and not pulling out the cell phone. Technology was described as a threat to families.

[00:56:54] G3: A: We are all trying to look good to society and it is society itself that is contaminating us. What is happening right now? Before, for example, I always told my children, "We're all going to sit down and eat as a family". Now they're teenagers, it's no longer, "We sit down to eat," and we're like this, here. Society itself is contaminating us, separating us. We want to look good to society, to a society that is no longer corrupt to everyone.

[00:57:27] Moderator: G3: K, do you want to say something?

[00:57:29] G3: K: I always, I have a 27 year old daughter and an 18 year old daughter. I was a single mom most of that time. A lot of people have said to me, "K, you have raised your daughters super well." Yes I have been strict and whatever you want, but I have always taught them respect. "You have to have discipline, you have to follow rules, for everything there you have, there is a structure of rules, of values." Everything starts at home. My dad before he passed away, that many years ago, he was like the-- Because I was a single mom for so long, he was the example of dad, the man of the house. Even though I didn't live with him, he always guided my daughters and everything, but I tell you, it's like she says. I don't cook with my daughters, we eat out every day, but I have them, "You know what? When I pay and--", every day, "From when we're having dinner, I don't want them to be on the phone. We are with our family, we are talking, put the phone aside. I don't care if she's a friend, we're here." For me it

is that values that are being lost even at the table. One participant described voting as confusing and they were uncertain about the entire process. Another described voting as important and something that had been passed on from their home countries where it was mandatory. Their perspectives are informed by first-hand experience.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 3: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES CONT

[01:00:14] G3: K: I don't know what's going on. I tell you, I'm kind of lost with this, because with this voting thing... I tell you, I'm confused because I really don't know, I haven't been involved in this thing. Who wants something from the vote out of the-- I don't know whether to vote-- I'm just confused. I don't know much about it myself, but I know that something that people shouldn't outside of...Areas, that it's okay that they don't vote or I don't know how it is, or they vote but outside, I don't understand.

[01:00:55] G3: L: I grew up in a country where voting is mandatory, if you don't go they penalize you. For example, I am here and I already have a debt in Perú for not having voted in Perú, because I have not yet moved my residence here. I grew up forced to vote, forced if I wanted to avoid the fine. Not here, here it is free, this is the country of freedom. I think it is important to go to the polls to vote and to witness, to avoid fraud because we are electing governors, governors who are going to set the laws, who are going to make the executive orders, those in the justice system who are going to apply the laws, etcetera. Yes, there must be a responsible citizen conscience, to go and elect the rulers.

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

[01:03:54] G3: CS: Protest is something that suddenly duty weighs, it should be a right. You could express it when you do it in the proper way. It is an acquired right that every human being has the right to be able to do so. The problem is that protest does not always have to be done in the most appropriate way. Returning again to the subject of education, I really refer to the word of God which says in Proverbs that, "Train up a child in the word of God, and though he grow old he will never depart from it". If children were educated from a young age, and I'm not telling you that all laws are based on the Bible, in some way they are based on the Bible, they have some support in the Bible, some laws especially in this country, that when the laws were created a very long time ago, they were created based on that. If one has that knowledge from a young age, again I go back to the issue of that. [unintelligible 01:04:59] For lack of knowledge. If I didn't know the Bible. That is a life manual that is there, the problem is that they have not been able to learn to understand it, to value it, and to make it one's guide in life.

Participants shared that they registered to vote at a young age, while others shared that they registered to vote because of Obama's presidential election.

[01:05:17] Moderator: How did you register to vote? How did you register to vote, J? Anyone ...?

[01:05:35] G3: J: Since I turned 18 I got the card.

[01:05:39] Moderator: G3: I, how did you register to vote?

[01:05:44] G3: I: Actually, as they indicated to us in--.

[01:05:49] Moderator: When?

[01:05:51] G3: I: That was--I don't really remember the last time.

[01:05:57] Moderator: Where did this happen? How did you happen to register?

[01:06:04] G3: I: I really don't remember at the moment what it was like, but I know I voted in the Obama era. That's where I voted, but don't ask me how.

[01:06:17] Moderator: G3: CS, how do you register to vote?

[01:06:20] G3: CS: For Obama's first term vote.

[01:06:25] Moderator: Did someone come to your house or at the store or where? How did it go? How did you register?

[01:06:31] G3: I: I don't remember.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

The Democratic Party was described as not fulfilling the promises that were made on student loans, the economy, and immigration. Participants expressed disappointment in this inaction. Views of the parties are framed from their personal lived experiences from their home countries.

- [01:09:12] G3: J: They haven't fulfilled anything. We're just a-- One of the examples is. [unintelligible 01:09:20] For years I've heard they're going to do something and they keep giving it a pass. There are students who are waiting for their payments to be canceled or suspended until those who are unemployed can. For me, that. I haven't heard anything about migration either, what are they doing?
- [01:09:51] G3: I: I only half listen to politics, but I really think that the Democratic Party, suddenly the opportunities they offer to the people have been very scarce, the solutions they present are very scarce. In the Republican's, I find them very overbearing, very unmanageable.
- [01:10:15] G3: CS: I have a comparison with the parties in Colombia and in most of our Latin American countries, especially in South America. We are Americans, here they call Americans to those from the north, we are all Americans. North Americans, Central Americans, South Americans, but we all belong to the same continent, America. The Democrat closely resembles the Liberal Party. It is an open, participatory and non-restrictive party. The Republican Party I see, similar to ours, is the conservative party, which is a more closed party, more radical, more closed to its principles, it is not so participative. That is the similarity I make. Democrat is liberal, Republican is conservative.
- [01:12:38] G3: A: I only put that we need help that they keep the promises they made to us, on the economy, migration, with the Democrats. In the second, from Republicans only I put, "The country requires your support." To me, they seem to be the ones who are a little more inclined to help us in some way.
- [01:13:45] G3: CE: For the Democrat I put, "Broken promises." Pure promise they make that they don't deliver anything, giving people entitlements.

For some, neither party is seen in a positive light. Both are thought to be corrupt and were compared to Latin American countries. One participant shared she identified more with the Republican party, despite this, because of its more religious values. Another supports the Republican Party because they are steadfast in their beliefs.

- [01:11:14] G3: L: In Democrat, unprecedented corruption. He is in the current government for fraud, liberal, like G3: CS, but not in the sense that he understands it to be liberal. Liberal goes against morals, loss of values. In the case of the Republican, corruption without equal precedent. I think both parties are corrupt, they collude, I don't know if 100%, but whoever has the influence colludes to achieve their purposes. In general, the Republican Party for me, and I've been a Republican since day one that I became a citizen of this nation, without all of this hoopla going on, because I've been a citizen since 2009. Conservative, because I tend to conserve the values, precisely what G3: CS mentioned, the values under which this nation was instituted, biblical values. It's in-- [unintelligible 01:12:21], where it says, "Pursuit of happiness". What is the name of this document? The values of this nation are established there. That is why I consider myself a republican, a conservative of those values.
- [01:13:00] G3: K: I put that the Democratic Party has disappointed me..I have been disappointed because I don't feel that they have done nothing for their own people, for their country. The Republican Party is, as she says, is conservative, but they stick to what they believe in. Yes, they are clinging. It is, as they say, the values of the country, of what the country requires.
- [01:16:32] G3: K: I also think they are all corrupt just like in Mexico. They are all corrupt, but here they are under the table, they try to hide it a little more and in Mexico they don't mind saying so. They are equally corrupt.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

[01:16:47] G3: A: I say here in the United States you get robbed decently. I will explain. They steal from us and worse than in Mexico, because in Mexico. [unintelligible 01:16:55] but here they steal from you decently and you can't say no. [unintelligible 01:17:00] operating here.

[01:17:01] G3: I: I think something, when one arrived here one had a totally different image of the United States, of the same government, of the same laws, that everything was perfect, that everything was done legally and when one realizes, they do the same things that are done in our countries, the same things and even worse.

One participant expressed that she was disappointed in Biden spending money on Ukraine rather than using money to help struggling Americans at home. While another defended him, saying that while not every campaign promise was fulfilled, it was because of the pandemic.

[00:16:55] G3: K: I do agree regardless. A lot of people think that with Biden--I voted for Biden, yes, and if he comes back I won't vote for him.

[00:17:13] Moderator: Why not?

[00:17:16] G3: K: Because it seems to me that he is not doing anything for his country. He's doing something like I say, "Why is he spending and sending billions to Ukraine while your country is suffering? There are little things like this that just don't--

[00:17:33] Moderator: Do you know who you're going to vote for? Are you going to vote?

[00:17:37] G3: K: I'm going to vote, yes. I think if Trump comes back I'm going to vote for Trump.

[00:18:07] G3: CS: Suddenly Biden has committed his inattention to what he promised, that's true.

[00:18:15] Moderator: Do you think he has broken his promises?

[00:18:18] G3: CS: Perhaps he has not fulfilled everything he says, but we must also keep in mind that he was presented with an event that is not easy to handle, such as the pandemic.

[00:18:27] G3: K: But there was already that event before he came in.

[00:18:31] G3: CS: It's moving forward.

[00:18:31] Moderator: Let him answer.

[00:18:35] G3: CS: Indeed, if Trump were to run again, I would not vote for Trump. This gentleman does not have sufficient intellectual capacity or knowledge to manage a country like this one. He believes that the money he has is enough and the mere fact that he has made money as he did. It came from a family of money. What he did was he multiplied it and invested it in the proper way, as he was instructed by [unintelligible 00:19:03]. I think education, for me, is the most important thing.

Trump is viewed negatively when it comes to racism, but viewed his time in office positively because the economy was perceived to be better under his leadership.

[00:20:01] G3: A: Yes, as he was commenting on it. One of the things that--I had jumped from education to politics. He is mentioning that he would not vote for Trump. I disagreed with Trump because in the time he was president racism raised a lot, but the country's economy I feel was balanced. That's right, he has money. I come back to the same thing, what Mr. Trump had is that he had no brakes. He says everything that comes to him, he would take it out, but the country was not as bad as it is now in the economy.

[00:27:06] Moderator: I wanted to talk a little bit more about what-- when we were talking about the economy, what does that mean? G3: A, you said that under Trump the economy was better. What does the economy mean to you? What is economics?

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS – GROUP 3

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS CONT

[00:27:20] G3: A: We were in pandemic times as well, but I feel that his-- Previously and after him, the economy of the country was like-- We were with the recession processes. Now, as we are also, I feel that at the time he was there we were not perfect, we were not down, but he was maintaining.

Several expressed that the United States offered false hope to those who want to come to the U.S. for a better life.

[01:17:43] G3: CE: People are coming from here. They go to Guatemala, Mexico, and they paint them a pretty picture, that they are going to make money, money, and they come. Poor people, they are here without work. There is no work, because they cannot have papers.

[01:17:58] G3: A: Just now that you comment on that, once on Facebook I saw that. A guy walks by and says, "When I was in my country they told me, 'Come to the United States, here you will earn so much and so much,'" they painted everything so beautifully. It said, "I'm here now. Yes, it's true, you make a lot of money, but I was never told, 'You have to pay rent, you have to pay electricity, you have to pay water'". At the end of the day he says, "Of that much money...."