UNLOCKING THE HISPANIC VOTE

FOCUS GROUP REPORT

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CONTENTS

Objectives of the Study

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

Methodology

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

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KEY FINDINGS

SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

News consumption among all participants consists of a combination of traditional media and social media, with the latter used to become informed on local issues. Facebook was cited the most often as the platform of choice, followed by Twitter, Instagram and the Neighborhood App. There was a mix of feelings about the trustworthiness of Facebook, and participants from each of the three groups noted that they used Google, the search engine, as a tool to verify news and information. Decidedly, Google was a trusted gateway to political information, and Facebook served an agenda setting function by keying in participants on news stories of the day.

Regarding news content and coverage, participants in both English and Spanish language focus groups noted a difference among Spanish and English news, labeling Spanish language news coverage as raw and less filtered. This elicited a mix of attitudes about the trustworthiness of Spanish news.

Participants in all groups shared that when a news story was reported on multiple news outlets, the repetition of the story was a key factor in validating the authenticity of the reporting. Paywalls, particularly on newspaper websites, kept participants from accessing desired news content, but rather than subscribing to the publications to gain access, participants shared that they simply switched to other news sources to access the information.

It was evident that political news consumption is driven by media through apps and browsers, as well as social media, suggesting that a new paradigm is emerging where news outlets chase their audience rather than an audience seeking out their own news. It should be noted that for participants, traditional network television was a trusted source for local news.

SECTION 2: A AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

When describing the attributes of a "good citizen," each of the three groups expressed definitions tied to communal functions of society. The act of helping others in the community and obeying laws were considered essential traits of a good citizen. Surprisingly, voting was not mentioned in any of the groups when discussing civic engagement until probed by the moderator, though attending town halls and community events were.

Low voter engagement stemmed from numerous factors including a systematic distrust in government and a lack of information on elections, candidates and issues. Overall sentiment was expressed that voting doesn't matter and that voting does not change their lives for the better, even among participants who had a history of voting.

Participants in the non-registered group believed that there was no cost benefit to participating in elections, concluding that time spent voting was inconsequential as a single vote had little to no effect on the outcome of an election. Lack of information about local elections was mentioned as a barrier to voting, particularly among the non-registered and those who only vote in presidential elections.

Non-registered citizens were misinformed on many aspects of voting in Texas, particularly on voter registration. Several inaccurately believed that voters must re-register for every election cycle. However, these non-registered citizens demonstrated a keen knowledge of current political issues and events suggesting they are consuming news stories related to politics and policy.

SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Gas prices, rising costs, inflation and the economy are of the most concern for participants across all groups. Several expressed a growing concern for being able to make ends meet because of stagnant wages and rising costs. They are anxious that this trend will continue indefinitely, and they place blame on several institutions including corporations and the government.

When discussing issues of upmost importance to them, participants framed issues on economic terms regardless if the issue was directly tied to the economy, such as abortion and crime.

Border security was not a top priority for most participants. They expressed a greater desire for immigration reform than for increased border security.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

While the Democratic Party was viewed positively by most, many expressed disappointment for lack of accomplishments on key issues such as immigration. Overall, the Democratic Party was popular, but seen as not fulfilling campaign promises and ineffective on many fronts. Republicans and the Republican Party, on the other hand, were credited for getting things done, winning elections for their candidates, and advancing a conservatice agenda.

Most of the participants expressed dislike for Trump personally, but felt he did a good job with the economy while serving as President. They credit him for a healthy economy during his tenure. The lived experience of participants, namely the rise of gas and food prices, greatly contribute to this sentiment. Overall, Republicans are seen as stronger on the economy and taxes, with Democrats being stronger on issues related to minorities and immigation, despite the lack of accomplishments on this issue.

Views on the political parties reflected a partisan division, and there were major differences in perceptions of what the two parties stand for. Generally speaking, participants viewed the Democratic Party as for the people, and the Republican Party as more patriotic and more focused on economic issues like taxes.

FULL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Over the course of two days, April 6 and 7, 2022, three (3) focus groups were conducted in Dallas, Texas as part of a research study for Emerson College Polling Center. The objectives of the research study are to assess and understand different attitudes and beliefs of Hispanic Americans toward U.S. politics and voting issues. The study included English and Spanish speaking participants, and included both registered and non-registered citizens.

There are four areas of concentration for the project:
1. News Consumption and Trust in Media
2. Voting and Civic Attitudes
3. Most Important Issues
4. Partisanship and Politics

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

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

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

METHODOLOGY

The three Texas focus groups were conducted in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex at a professional focus group facility, Dallas by Definition, located in Irving, Texas, a suburb of Dallas.

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

Participants were recruited by the facility using participant screeners (See Supplemental Materials) created for the project. Recruitment was conducted approximately one week prior to the groups taking place. An incentive of $125 was offered to each participant who met the criteria for each group, which was paid upon their completion of participation in the focus group discussion. Eleven (11) people per group were recruited with the intention of seating 8 participants for each group. 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 - Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 4pm
  - Hispanic Registered Voters (conducted in English)
- Group 2 - Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 6pm
  - Hispanic Non-Registered Citizens (conducted in English)
- Group 3 - Thursday, April 7, 2022, 4pm
  - Hispanic Registered Voters (conducted in Spanish)

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

Each of the 3 focus groups lasted approximately 90 minutes and were audio and video recorded. Transcripts of each of the groups were created by the staff of Emerson College Polling Center 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, Screener, and In-Take form were translated into Spanish by the bilingual team members of Emerson College Polling Center. Copies of these can also be found in the Supplemental Materials.

Key Findings

SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

News consumption among all participants consists of a combination of traditional media and social media, with the latter used to become informed on local issues. Facebook was cited the most often as the platform of choice, followed by Twitter, Instagram and the Neighborhood App. There was a mix of feelings about the trustworthiness of Facebook, and participants from each of the three groups noted that they used Google, the search engine, as a tool to verify news and information. Decidedly, Google was a trusted gateway to political information, and Facebook served an agenda setting function by keying in participants on news stories of the day.

Regarding news content and coverage, participants in both English and Spanish language focus groups noted a difference among Spanish and English news, labeling Spanish language news coverage as raw and less filtered. This elicited a mix of attitudes about the trustworthiness of Spanish news.

Participants in all groups shared that when a news story was reported on multiple news outlets, the repetition of the story was a key factor in validating the authenticity of the reporting. Paywalls, particularly on newspaper websites, kept participants from accessing desired news content, but rather than subscribing to the publications to gain access, participants shared that they simply switched to other news sources to access the information.

It was evident that political news consumption is driven by media through apps and browsers, as well as social media, suggesting that a new paradigm is emerging where news outlets chase their audience rather than an audience seeking out their own news. It should be noted that for participants, traditional network television was a trusted source for local news.

SECTION 2: A AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

When describing the attributes of a "good citizen," each of the three groups expressed definitions tied to communal functions of society. The act of helping others in the community and obeying laws were considered essential traits of a good citizen. Surprisingly, voting was not mentioned in any of the groups when discussing civic engagement until probed by the moderator, though attending town halls and community events were.

Low voter engagement stemmed from numerous factors including a systematic distrust in government and a lack of information on elections, candidates and issues. Overall sentiment was expressed that voting doesn't matter and that voting does not change their lives for the better, even among participants who had a history of voting.
Participants in the non-registered group believed that there was no cost benefit to participating in elections, concluding that time spent voting was inconsequential as a single vote had little to no effect on the outcome of an election. Lack of information about local elections was mentioned as a barrier to voting, particularly among the non-registered and those who only vote in presidential elections.

Non-registered citizens were misinformed on many aspects of voting in Texas, particularly on voter registration. Several inaccurately believed that voters must re-register for every election cycle. However, these non-registered citizens demonstrated a keen knowledge of current political issues and events suggesting they are consuming news stories related to politics and policy

SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Gas prices, rising costs, inflation and the economy are of the most concern for participants across all groups. Several expressed a growing concern for being able to make ends meet because of stagnant wages and rising costs. They are anxious that this trend will continue indefinitely, and they place blame on several institutions including corporations and the government.

When discussing issues of upmost importance to them, participants framed issues on economic terms regardless if the issue was directly tied to the economy, such as abortion and crime.
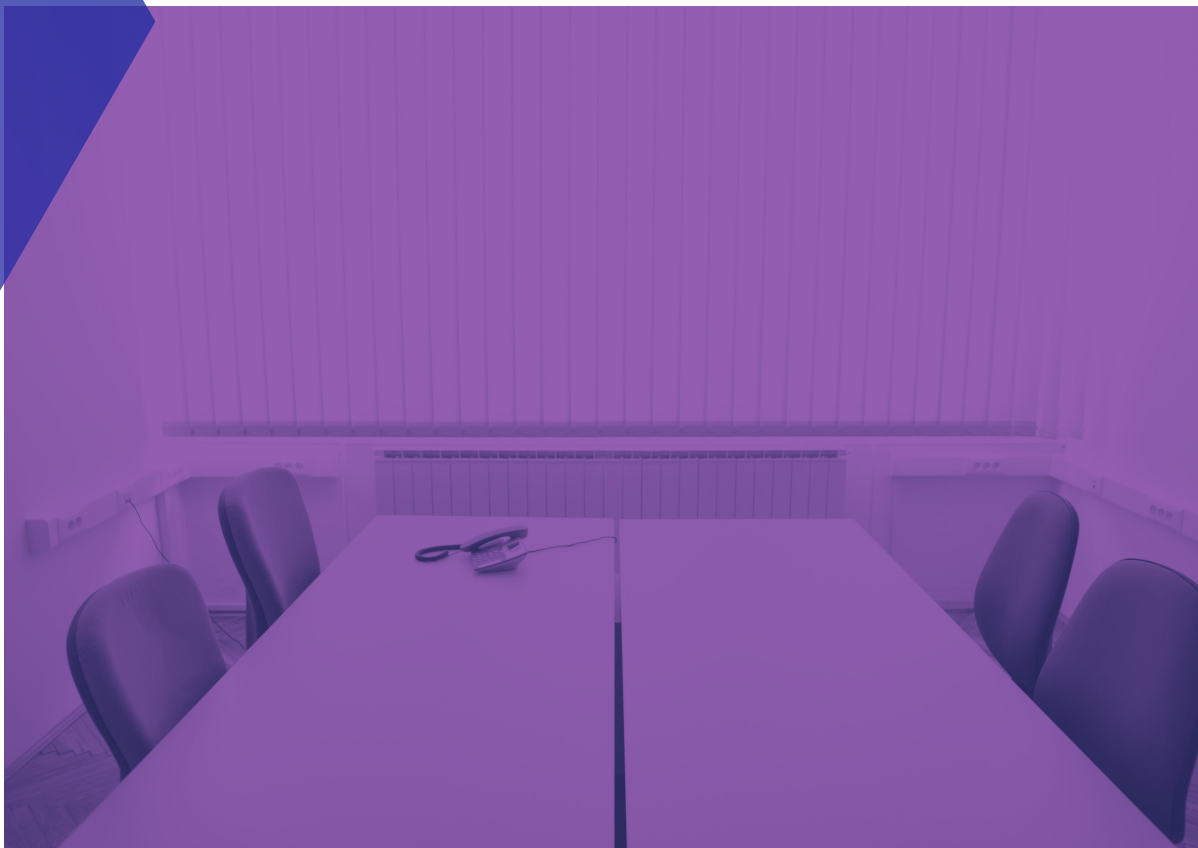
Border security was not a top priority for most participants. They expressed a greater desire for immigration reform than for increased border security.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

While the Democratic Party was viewed positively by most, many expressed disappointment for lack of accomplishments on key issues such as immigration. Overall, the Democratic Party was popular, but seen as not fulfilling campaign promises and ineffective on many fronts. Republicans and the Republican Party, on the other hand, were credited for getting things done, winning elections for their candidates, and advancing a conservative agenda.

Most of the participants expressed dislike for Trump personally, but felt he did a good job with the economy while serving as President. They credit him for a healthy economy during his tenure. The lived experience of participants, namely the rise of gas and food prices, greatly contribute to this sentiment. Overall, Republicans are seen as stronger on the economy and taxes, with Democrats being stronger on issues related to minorities and immigration, despite the lack of accomplishments on this issue.

Views on the political parties reflected a partisan division, and there were major differences in perceptions of what the two parties stand for. Generally speaking, participants viewed the Democratic Party as for the people, and the Republican Party as more patriotic and more focused on economic issues like taxes.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

PARTICIPANTS

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

Participants:

The participants for Group 1 were as follows:

- 4 female and 4 male
- Income range between $10k - $100k+
- Education:
  - 3 high school diploma or less
  - 1 some college
  - 2 college grad
  - 2 post grad
- All participants were from bilingual households except for 1

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Female	32	Columbian	Unsure	G1: AD
Female	32	Mexican	Republican	G1:K
Male	59	Mexican	Republican	G1:S
Female	43	Mexican	Independent	G1: C
Female	26	Mexican	Democrat	G1: V
Male	28	Mexican	Democrat	G1: D
Male	33	Mexican	Democrat	G1: JO
Female	60	Mexican	Democrat	G1: AN

Key Findings: Group 1

Participants in the group noted several times that they did not like Donald Trump personally, but they did like the way he handled the economy–even among the democrats. Inflation, gas prices, and rising cost of living was of most concern to this group. Finally, they shared that their family members don't vote because of fear of the government and retaliation of some kind.

SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA
- Google is a primary source for researching political candidates and issues, both nationally and locally.
- When a story appears on multiple media outlets, it is perceived as true.
- Newspapers are a trusted source of news but participants are not able to access content due to paywalls, and there is no motivation to subscribe to gain access.

SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES
- Participants define a good citizen as someone who helps others in their community. They do not associate voting as an attribute of a good citizen.
- Many participants believe that fear of government contributes to low voter participation in the Hispanic community.
- Several participants' lack of information prevents participation in local elections.

SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES
- The economy, inflation and rising costs are of the greatest concern. Participants cite growing costs while wages remain stagnant.
- Participants blame for rise in gas prices and costs of goods is placed primarily on the government, though some noted that the issue is complex and attribute it to the pandemic stimulus checks issued by the government.
- Many participants expressed frustration from lack of progress on the issue of immigration.
- The Trump administration is perceived as having done well on the economy.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS
- Many participants view Trump as divisive and the Republican Party as more successful at advancing their political agenda.
- While some expressed being against abortion, there was consensus that a woman should have the power to decide about their own bodies.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Google is a primary source for researching political candidates and issues, both nationally and locally.
The participants shared that they use television and the internet as the primary sources of acquiring information about what is happening around them, Local television stations and Facebook were specifically cited as places to learn about local events and community events, as was the Neighborhood App. When participants encountered news stories or information that concerned them or that they didn't understand and needed more information about, they cited Google, the search engine, as the way in which they inform themselves about the issue.

Responding to a question about where they get their news.
G1: [9:15] AN: On TV, uh huh. Yes but if there's something that concerns me, I Google it and see what I can kind of find out.

G1: [10:59] D: No, just Google. I start Googling. You know, I find a page that kinda seems like they have a lot of accurate information.

When a story appears on multiple media outlets, it is perceived as true.
Participants shared that they were more likely to believe the validity of a story if it appeared on multiple news outlets. If they were still confused or uncertain about a news item, they would revert to Google as a mechanism to verify whether or not a story was true. This would suggest that Google ads play an important role in assisting users in determining whether a story has been reported by numerous news outlets.

Responding to the moderator's question "What makes news trustworthy?"
G1: [14:13] D: I'm a little wary on almost all the news stations just in general - I keep like an open mind. So like he said, yeah, this news station might try to do this and this news station might try to do that, but what I do, whenever I find something that I'm not sure about or that I'm interested in, is that I want to see that on multiple different, like, if it's on CNN then I feel like it should be on Fox, or they should have something pertaining to that specific topic that I'm looking for. So like, if only CNN is playing it, well I mean, why is only CNN? That's what I question, like why is no one talking about this? Is it real, or is it not?

G1: [15:56]: K: Right. I just feel….if a lot of people are reporting it, then it's probably more secure it's true.

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

Newspapers are a trusted source of news but participants are not able to access content due to paywalls, and there is no motivation to subscribe to gain access.
While newspapers were a trusted source of information, several participants noted that they were not able to access newspapers' online content due to paywalls. Participants expressed frustration when encountering these paywalls and remarked that they would not subscribe to the publications to gain access to the content, rather they would search other free news sites to access the information they could not get to behind the paywalls. Consequently, free news content, that which is not protected by paywalls, is the dominant source of news consumption. Since larger, national newspapers tend to be protected behind paywalls, this suggests that smaller media companies are providing more of the consumed news content.

G1: [20:41] J: Most of the newspapers now are behind a paywall so you can't really access them. So that kind of, brings it back to other news outlets, like Yahoo or CNN, that are usually more, uh, free to have.
G1: [20:55] Mod: So that's a problem you found online, trying to access online print?
G1: [20:59] J: When you try to look up a news article on say the Wall Street Journal, there's only a set amount of articles you can look at before you block off.
G1: [21:07] V: I agree with that, cause I usually look up the Dallas [Morning] News and after a while, oh, it will tell you you have to subscribe.
G1: [21:10] J: It's very annoying.
G1: [21:18] Mod: Does that make you more likely to subscribe (to news outlets behind paywalls)?
G1: [21:22] Group: No. [laughter]

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Participants define a good citizen as someone who helps others in their community. They do not associate voting as an attribute of a good citizen.
Participants in this group describe good citizens as people who help other people. They also responded that good citizens obey laws and keep their communities clean by not littering. When asked about whether being Latino shaped what it meant to be a good citizen, participants suggested that a person's childhood and an individual's upbringing are a primary influence of how people learn to be good citizens. Voting was not discussed until the moderator probed about whether or not a good citizen votes. Acts of a good citizen were based on the betterment of the larger society, and voting was not attributed to that same trait.

Responding to the question, what does it mean to be a good citizen?
G1: [22:26] C: For me, well I mean me, personally, like if I see someone in need I'll try to help them. But that's me, you know.

G1: [23:18] S: I think we just need to know that everyone's here for the same reason, you know? We're all just trying to make it, make ends meet. So, just be friendly with each other, and abide by the laws.

G1: [25:11] Mod: Do you have to be a voter to be a good citizen? How does voting intersect with being a good citizen? What does that mean?
G1: [25:39] D: I don't think it does. If anything, if you vote or don't vote, I don't think it defines whether you're a good citizen or not in my personal opinion. But I do think if you want change you should vote for what you believe in, instead of complaining about it, go out and do something.

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

Many participants believe that fear of government contributes to low voter participation in the Hispanic community.
When probed about voting, participants remarked that voting is a facet of being a good citizen but that there are Hispanic cultural elements that prevent many from voting. It was suggested that Latinos did not vote for fear of the government or of being scared about being persecuted by law enforcement. Others suggested that Latinos did not trust the government and that's why they didn't vote. One participant shared that they believed that Latinos don't vote because of the belief that voting does not make a difference in their lives and that the government was going to take action regardless of whether citizens vote or not. The group's attitudes were a mix of cynicism and a lack of self-efficacy.

G1: [26:04] J: I don't think voting fits into that facet since, you know, [in] our culture, I don't think we are big voters. In my family, I know historically they weren't voters typically.
G1: [26:16] Mod: What contributed to [not voting]?
G1: [26:17] J: More the fear of being in a government office and then being scared about getting persecuted outside or inside the law.

G1: [26:30] C: I vote, but my family doesn't vote.
Moderator probes the reason for the family not voting.
G1: [27:00] C: The same reasons he's saying, like they're scared, you know? Because, they're scared just for, you know, on how we say it, the government.

Several participants' lack of information prevents participation in local elections.
It was also revealed that many participants did not vote because they lacked information about local elections. They shared that they had insufficient information regarding candidates, when to vote, and where to vote. Those in the group who did vote, did so primarily in presidential elections which are heavily advertised across all communication media.

G1: [36:30] J: I don't think they're at all very much advertised when they are. So you're like: "Wait, what happened? Who's going where?" So it doesn't really matter.
G1: [36:40] Mod: Right.
G1: [36:41] J: So it just passes by.
G1: [36:43] Mod: Okay.
G1: [36:45] AD: You know, just like he said, they're not very known. I don't really know much about them.
G1: [36:49] J: Yeah, like who votes for the comptroller? Or you know, the sheriff who is actually elected and all that.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

The economy, inflation and rising costs are of the greatest concern. Participants cite growing costs while wages remain stagnant.
The most important issue for this group was the economy, specifically inflation and the rising costs of gas and groceries. This was of particular concern to participants because they were not experiencing increases in wages or salaries. Instead, they viewed wages as stagnant and the cost of everything else rising.

G1: [47:26] AN: It seems like everything has skyrocketed, and salaries are the same. You know, everywhere you look you have to pay more of what you're paying. Insurance, health care, everything, and your salary is the same.

Participants blame for rise in gas prices and costs of goods is placed primarily on the government, though some noted that the issue is complex and attribute it to the pandemic stimulus checks issued by the government.
When asked who was to blame for the rising costs, some primarily placed the blame on the government. It was noted that the issue of inflation was complex, though one attributed it to the stimulus checks issued by the government.

G1: [46:29] D: I kind of think the economy has a lot to do with inflation and rising costs. You know, I think all that money that we got for free, that they gave to everybody, I think that has a lot to do with inflation. I think you can't say just because you gave everyone a hundred dollars, that then a hundred dollars really isn't a hundred dollars. We gave everybody thousands of bucks, but it has to come from somewhere. Then we have a billion dollar company, but each product costs half a billion, so you really only have two pieces for each thing. So I think that had a lot to do with it. So the economy, gas, oil … those two kind of go hand in hand.

G1: [47:47] Mod: And who do you blame for [rising prices]?
G1: [47:51] AN: The government.

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

Many participants expressed frustration from lack of progress on the issue of immigration particularly for existing residents.
Several participants expressed frustration around the issue of immigration, citing family members who had been working in this country for years and were not able to get their citizenship or Green Card. It was expressed that the immigration system was too complicated, too expensive, and it took too long for ordinary immigrants to acquire their citizenship.

G1: [51:12] J: The process is too convoluted. It's too hard, it's too expensive, and it takes way too long for normal people that should be citizens to get their citizenship. It's unfair.

G1: [51:25] K: And they're bringing all these people from other places, but yet the ones that they have here, they won't allow them to legally be here.

The Trump administration is perceived as having done well on the economy.
Participants believe that the economy was better under the Trump administration, even among some Democrats that mentioned dislike of him otherwise. And, the group made a connection between the economy and crime, suggesting that job creation reduces crime because people have a way to earn a living.

G1: [50:33] S: …I mean [Trump] was for the people, you know? I feel like he did a lot for the economy, you know? I remember early on Obama said that 'you can't run this like a business'. Apparently he did and he did a great job I thought.

G1: [58:07] D: Even though Trump ran this country really good, I still would not vote for him even in the next four years, because I didn't like the type of- the way he- I don't know how to say it on the paper.

G1: [1:16:33] S: I say the Republicans [do better on the issue of crime]. Because when Trump was in office, he created a lot of jobs, and I think that brings down crime.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

Many participants view Trump as divisive and the Republican Party as more successful at advancing their political agenda.
On the subject of partisanship and politics, one of the participants noted that they liked Trump's economic policies but did not like him as a human being. They suggested that Trump was politically divisive. It was also suggested that social media contributed to the partisan divide because it allowed people to openly express their feelings about politics. While the participants felt positive toward the Democratic Party, they felt the Republican Party had a better track record on getting things done by pushing their agenda forward. Republicans were seen as being better on taxes while Democrats were seen better on immigration, though there was frustration that the Democrats had shown no progress on fixing the issue.

G1: [1:19:25] Mod: Overall, who do you think is more successful at
pushing their agenda forward?
G1: [1:19:34] D, J, K: Republicans. (group nods)
G1: [1:19:35] D: I think the Republicans are way stronger.
G1: [1:19:39] Mod: Why is that, do you think?
G1: [1:19:44] J: They're better organized, they have more money and backers. The whole conservative community [is] kind of banded together.

While some expressed being against abortion, there was consensus that a woman should have the power to decide about their own bodies.
Mixed feelings were expressed on the issue of abortion, with one participant sharing that they were against abortion and agreed on the Republicans stance on the issue. However, there were several other participants who were unhappy with the direction that the Republicans were taking on abortion and felt that it was best for the woman to decide about their own bodies, not the government.

G1: [1:24:38] V: I agree, I feel that everybody, or any woman in that topic, should have the right to decide on their own body and if they wanna move forward with a pregnancy, or not. And I feel like them just totally banning it is very hazardous and I feel like it's just gonna backfire in other ways.

PARTICIPANTS

Group 2 - Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 6pm – Hispanic Non-Registered Citizens Conducted in English

- 4 female and 4 male
- Income range between $20k - $74k
- Education:
    - 5 high school diploma or less
    - 1 some college
    - 2 college grad
- All participants were from bilingual households except for 1

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Female	23	Mexican	Did not indicate	G2: A
Male	25	Argentina	Unsure	G2: O
Female	31	Mexican	Did not indicate	G2: N
Male	48	Mexican	Did not indicate	G2: C
Female	41	Mexican	None	G2: L
Female	33	Mexican	Unsure	G2: E
Male	38	Mexican	None	G2: J
Male	46	Puerto Rican	Democrat	G2: R

Key Findings: Group 2

Despite not being registered voters, this group was well informed on political news thanks to social media and news being delivered to them via their Smartphones or web browser on their computers. Interestingly, many admitted to having little trust in social media for accurate political news. While the group was non-partisan, with the exception of 1 Democrat, the group's rhetoric was very much shaped and influenced by Republican talking points such as the Democrats rigging the presidential elections.

SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA
- Social media is used to learn about what is happening in the community. Neighborhood App is a trusted source of local information particularly as it relates to crime.
- News appears to be delivered to them through apps and browsers, more often than them seeking it out.
- News video footage is a measure of story validity, though they are aware that videos can be altered.
- Streaming services, like Hulu and Netflix, and news apps are often taking the place of cable television.
- News on Spanish language media is perceived as more raw and graphic than its English counterpart.

SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES
- A good citizen is seen as someone who is law abiding and cares for others in the community.
- Voting was not noted as an activity for being civically engaged.
- There was confusion around voter registration and eligibility status.
- Lack of voter participation was due to a lost faith in elected officials in following through on campaign promises, and the act of voting is perceived as too big of a sacrifice for little or no return.

SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES
- Inflation and rising costs was cited as an issue that is causing stress, coupled with the uncertainty of when the costs increases will end, compounds the issue.
- Participants blame a weak economy on several factors, from corporations to the government.
- Border security was not a top priority for most participants. Immigration reform is far more important.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS
- Many participants view the Democratic Party as more sympathetic to minorities and immigrants, but note that no real immigration change has taken place under Democratic leadership.
- Several participants view Republicans as better on economic issues like taxes.
- Several expressed they dislike Trump personally, but think the economy was better when he was in office.
- In discussing the cons of the Democratic Party, a respondent repeated Trump rhetoric of a rigged presidential election

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Social media used to learn about what is happening in the community. Neighborhood App is a trusted source of local information particularly as it relates to crime.
When asked where they got information about what was happening in their community and the world around them participants in this group noted social media, specifically Twitter and Facebook. The Neighborhood app was mentioned as a source to learn about crime happening in their local communities and was a trusted source of information.

Moderator asks participants where do you go to learn these things about what is happening, here in the community and world around you?
G2: [8:46] J: Twitter. Facebook. Anything you can just log in from an app.
G2: [8:49] Mod: But what do you use?
G2: [8:52] J: What do I use? I use Facebook.

G2: [8:58] L: I use Neighborhood App. It's like a local app, you know… What concerns [me] is also drugs, and violence going on, crime.
G2: [9:25] N: The school shootings also.
G2: [9:27] L: Yes. That's what I see on [Neighborhood] app. And that's just a local app. Hey, you know, there's a shooting in your area. This [is] happening, we're all getting that stuff.

News appears to be delivered to them through apps and browsers, more often than them seeking it out.
One participant shared that when they log onto their computer using Windows, the browser automatically feeds them news on a national and state level. Others mentioned that their iPhones perform similar functions, feeding them stories and notifications of news stories from various news sources that they have installed on their cell phones. This suggests that participants are aware and consuming news though they are not actively seeking it out. Twitter was noted as a trusted media source largely because it is unrestricted.

G2: [9:53] O: Really it's just [at] my job. I'm on a computer most of the time. So every time I open Windows it's just news, all the time. I just scroll through there sometimes.

G2: [10:20] C: Or it's your email. That's mine. Normally I get an email about the most kind of breaking or the most important news of the day. National and statewide.

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

News video footage is a measure of story validity, though they are aware that videos can be altered.
Several discussed how video footage of the Ukraine War is a way to verify stories, though pointed out that some footage could be old footage from several years back. There was discussion around video working as a mechanism to validate news stories though the group was aware that videos could be manipulated or pulled from years past.

G2: [11:58] O: TikTok doesn't uncensor anything. I've seen so many more videos about anything Ukraine and Russia.
G2: [12:05] A: But it does get deleted though.
G2: [12:12] C: But how truthful, do you guys feel that information is? Like on Twitter.
G2: [12:15] O: Well it's a [real] video, of people in the war.
G2: [12:19] C: Okay, okay.
G2: [12:19] O: Like you can see tanks, or they'll just show you drone strikes.
G2:[12:22] L: So like, a lot of those, sometimes it's from old wars.
G2:[12:25] O: I guess, yeah you're right. I did hear that some.

Streaming services, like Hulu and Netflix, and news apps are often taking the place of cable television.
The growth of the streaming service market is evident among this group of participants. While they are still consuming news, they are doing it through subscription and streaming services, allowing them to both time shift their news intake and self-select the type of news they want to watch or read news that is consistent with their attitudes or prior beliefs.

G2: [15:56] E: I haven't watched the news, like the actual news, in how long? I don't know.
G2: [15:58] O: Yeah me neither. This is the first time I have even talked about it.
G2: [16:04] E: Now it's just subscriptions, like Hulu, or Netflix. I haven't watched live TV in like…
G2: [16:10] L: I have the stream[ing], AT&T. I have the package where I even get the Mexican news. News from other countries, from Salvador.

News on Spanish language media is perceived as more raw and graphic than its English counterpart.
There is a perception that news is reported differently by news outlets depending on the language in which it is delivered. When asked about the difference between Spanish and English language news, participants noted that Spanish language news was more graphic and less filtered. Nonetheless, it is a trusted source of news.

G2: [16:19] Mod: I was going to ask you about that. What about Spanish media vs. English media? Do you trust one more than the other?
G2: [16:20-16:30] Crosstalk. Group agrees on trusting Spanish media more. O says something about the Spanish media overreacting
G2: [16:37] N: I kind of disagree with that. I think the Spanish news has no filter, I think they go more in-depth. Sometimes they show more graphic stuff on there.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

A good citizen is seen as someone who is law abiding and cares for others in the community.
Discussion of being a good citizen centered around not participating in criminal activity and being good to others in the community. When asked about what it means to be civically engaged participants noted that attending town hall meetings and doing jury duty were activities of people who are civically engaged.

G2: [20:19] R: I would say, it also has to do with not participating in criminal activities as well. Cause if you're involved in that, then obviously, there's a cost, and you obviously end up in jail. So I would say, not taking part in crime. And being good to others.

Voting was not noted as an activity for being civically engaged.
Not surprisingly, this group of non-voting participants did not cite voting as an essential behavior of a civically engaged citizen, focusing more on local government and community activities. Even though they did not vote, they were still active and socially connected in their communities, including attending church.

G2: [22:31] R: I think it means, be involved in your local government and your community.

G2: [22:46] N: The town hall meetings. And stuff like that.
G2: [22:48] R: Exactly.
G2: [22:57] A: Or even within your own like, suburb. Like some places they have the HOA, which is the home owner association. I feel like that could be included as well.
G2: [23:07] O: Or like, neighborhood watch?

G2: [27:25] E: Cause I've seen it, where they do advertisement [that] say "come register, come vote". I know they've done it at my church. They have [voting], well they did before Covid.

There was confusion around voter registration and eligibility status.
There was a lot of confusion around voter registration with some participants believing that they had to register every year or election cycle in order to qualify to vote. One participant inaccurately surmised that one must register to vote every election cycle, and was unable to define what constituted an election cycle.

G2: [26:40] C: I kind of thought that when you do, it's kind of for that cycle if you will. And then after that, it drops.
G2: [26:47] Mod: What do you mean cycle?
G2: [26:48] C: Like the voting cycle for example. So whenever you have to vote again for whatever it is. Four years later or whatever it is. After that, it drops, and you have to re-enroll again to be back on the rolls.

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

Lack of voter participation was due to a lost faith in elected officials to be honest and follow through on campaign promises, and the act of voting is perceived as too big of a sacrifice for little or no return.

Participants expressed that people do not participate in elections and voting is because there's little faith in elected officials and their ability to follow through on campaign promises. Participants felt that there was no cost benefit to voting, and they cited that little had changed over time. They perceive that voting does not make a difference in their own lives or community.

G2: [31:22] J: [Sigh] It's kinda the whole sense, no offense to anybody, that I don't think that your vote matters, to be honest.
G2: [31:31] L: Mm-hmm.
G2: [31:32] J: When they're up there, they're gonna do what they wanna do.
G2: [31:32] O: Yeah absolutely.
G2: [31:33] L: That's what they've shown these last [years], probably a lot of them.
G2: [31:37] R: Yeah.

G2: [33:06] E: I remember for the election the lines were super long. I didn't have time to be sitting there two hours waiting and, I got things to do, you know? I have work, I have kids, I have dogs.

G2: [35:04] L: I really… one of the reasons they don't, people don't vote anymore is like lack of trust…these past few years, how they promise and promise. [For] President, in their campaign, "Yeah, well then I'm gonna do this. Yeah, I promise you I'm gonna do this" and when the time comes, they become president. Nothing happens with what they say. They start their term, they know the work, they don't, um, you know, meet up with what they promised. So, I believe that a lot of people, you know, now they've lost that hope, that faith, that, you know.

G2: [36:03] R: I think that sometimes people don't vote because they don't have the proper ID or it's expired or something. They're like "Oh I can't do it, I can't do it" so they don't do it. They think if their ID is expired… or you don't have the proper ID or something you can't do it. I don't wanna say that Hispanics don't necessarily care to go vote, cause that would be a lie. But, there is a group of us who really don't care to some extent. Like life is still gonna go [on], you're still gonna elect somebody. It's like a tv show really, it's like "Okay, who are they gonna pick?"

G2: [37:39] J: Life is gonna go on if you vote or you don't vote. Simple as that.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Inflation and rising costs was cited as an issue that is causing stress, coupled with the uncertainty of when the costs increases will end, compounds the issue.
While healthcare was noted as an important issue for this group, the economy, inflation and rising costs was by far the most pressing issue for them. Specifically the group talked about the high cost of fuel and groceries, and how it makes life difficult for families on a set budget trying to make ends meet. For this group the economy was a catchall phrase that encompasses everything from cost of gasoline and groceries, to jobs and wages.

G2: [43:52] C: I mean it's stressful because like you still gotta fill up your tank, you still gotta get from A to B, and you still gotta get things done. Not getting gas is not an option, and nothing else comes up to help, like you're not making more money to offset the cost.

G2: [44:08] L: I'm a single mom and already have things planned out… What I'm saying [is] when you already have it planned out, when you're barely making it sometimes and then this comes up. That's where the second job comes in, you find other ways to bring money in.

G2: [44:35] C: And also knowing when it is going to get better? We know eventually [prices] will go back down but when? Like is it going to be 3 months, 6 months, a year? So that we can at least plan or try to find a way to make our own plan.

Participants blame a weak economy on several factors, from corporations to the government.
Corporations, businesses and the government were blamed for inflation and rising costs. One participant suggested that the war on Ukraine was contributing to the rising costs, though ultimately placing the blame on corporate greed. When discussing the issue of crime, participants framed the issue in economic terms specifically citing the use of taxpayer dollars to pay for incarceration.

G2: [45:22] J: To be quite honest, I really can't blame anybody, cause you don't know where it starts from. A lot of people say it starts from like the presidential all the way down and everybody just kind of piggybacks off of somebody as well. So it's kind of hard to blame one person in particular.

G2: [45:41] O: To that question, I would blame corporations and businesses, 'cause they're the reason why all of this is going on. If you think about it, it's your product and how much it costs to make that product. So you gotta buy it from somewhere, you gotta export from somewhere. Whatever they decide, however much material costs for you to buy, that's how much you're gonna buy. So whatever is [set at]… it affects your economy and its citizens.

G2: [49:07] A: Who I blame, or you know whatever, is capitalism. Inflation starts with demand. These corporations know that the demand is, so they raise prices.

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

Border security was not a top priority for most participants. Immigration reform is far more important.
Border security was not seen as an important issue. Rather they saw the need for workers and immigration reform as more critical. They viewed immigrants as hardworking people who simply want to work and earn an honest living.

G2: [52:40] C:…but I just think that they have control over it. Like, if they would put some type of program in place where you can say "okay, we're gonna give out 50,000 visas a year" like, for like, work type of purpose or whatever, then that's it. Like, people will wait online, people will register it, and whatever is their
job is their job.

G2: [46:57] L: I blame the government sometimes. Back in the day, for example [with] the borders and immigration, it wasn't as strict as it is now. You didn't have to charge visas and all that. Now it's to their convenience, they put the charge they want, the states and the government. They put the price and what they want, they don't have to put that price but they decide. So sometimes I say the government, the states, and then it even goes to the White House. If they wanted to, they could say "This is gonna go, and this is gonna go."

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

Many participants view the Democratic Party as more sympathetic to minorities and immigrants, but note that no real immigration change has taken place under Democratic leadership.

When describing the two political parties, participants in this group described Democrats as being more for minorities and low income families. Republicans were described as being more patriotic and better on the economy, especially relating to taxes. It was discussed that DACA was a Democratic Party promise that fell short and that led to no real immigration reform.

G2:[1:07:40] Mod: What else, what did y'all put pro about Democrats, anybody?
G2:[1:07:46] O: More open to change.
G2: [1:07:55] C: Pro minorities.
G2: [1:07:58] E: Yeah, probably that they cater to lower income households. Like, they cater more to [them] versus republicans, I don't know.

G2: [1:18:03] Mod: Who is better at immigration?
G2: [1:18:05] O: I say Democrats.

G2: [1:18:09] O: Like Obama, he was a Democrat right? My mom would always be like "Thank god we are going to have this guy, cause he's gonna give a green card". Then he ended up giving DACA. And then for years, he was saying "whoever has DACA is gonna get a green card", and that never happened. But he gave the illusion, so he could get more votes and all this other stuff.

Several participants view Republicans as better on economic issues like taxes.

The Republican party was not completely viewed as negative, with one participant expressing that they felt the Republican party was building America to be a stronger country. Like the other groups in the study, these participants described the Republican Party as being better on the issue of taxes. They showed support for immigration reform and noted that Republicans were not in favor of this policy change.

G2: [1:08:39] R: I feel like [Republicans] are building America to be a stronger country.

G2: [1:09:00] A: Um, I put, um, as far as taxes…
G2: [1:09:03]: Mod: Taxes. Okay, N?
G2: [1:09:05] N: Same, like he said, they work hard for what they believe in.
G2: [1:09:08] A: They're very patriotic.
G2: [1:09:13] J: I would have to agree with the taxes also.

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

Several expressed they dislike Trump personally, but think the economy was better when he was in office.
Several shared that they did not like Trump as a person but felt that he was better for the economy than what they are currently experiencing. The group was split on which party was better at handling crime, noting that Republicans are more strict and punitive while Democrats were seen as favoring decriminalization. Of the three, this group revealed the least partisan alignment.

G2: [1:13:58] A: Like he was saying earlier, he was saying that Trump was better for the economy. As far as trying to get it back on track.

G2: [1:14:20] E: I mean, even though Trump did whatever he did, I feel like our economy was way better when he was in office.

In discussing the cons of the Democratic Party, a respondent repeated Trump rhetoric of a rigged presidential election.
A participant shared their belief that the Democrats had manipulated the presidential election, suggesting that Trump's false claim of a rigged election was shaping perceptions of the election outcome.

G2: [1:09:40] R: They manipulate the elections.
G2: [1:09:42] Mod: Which elections?
G2: [1:09:43] R: The ones they just had.
G2: [1:09:44] A: Wait, Democrats or Republicans?
G2: [1:09:46] R: No, we're talking about Democrats.
G2: [1:09:49] Mod: So you feel that the Democrats-
G2: [1:09:50] R: Oh, yeah. I mean, they were manipulating the elections.
G2: [1:09:52] Mod: Were they?
G2: [1:09:52] C: Last election was not right.

PARTICIPANTS

Group 3 - Thursday, April 7, 2022, 4pm – Hispanic Registered Voters Conducted in Spanish

- 4 female and 4 male
- Income range between $20k - $100k+
- Education:
  - 4 high school diploma or less
  - 4 some college
- 4 participants were from Spanish only speaking households and 4 were from Spanish dominated households

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Male	54	Mexican	Democrat	G3:RA
Male	33	Salvadoran	Democrat	G3: G
Female	47	Mexican	Independent	G3: A
Female	54	Guatemalan	Democrat	G3: N
Female	62	Mexican	Democrat	G3: E
Male	43	Mexican	Democrat	G3: R
Male	66	Pan-American	Democrat	G3: T
Female	22	Mexican	Independent	G3: GA

Key Findings: Group 3

More so than any other group, participants in Group 3 expressed attitudes that were at the extremes of both political parties. Despite the partisan divide, the Democratic Party was still viewed as more favorably, but it had also left many of them disappointed and disillusioned because they felt that the Democratic Party was not delivering on campaign promises, especially around immigration. The Republicans Party was perceived as successful on the economy and crime, and better funded. Finally, while all participants had registered to vote and had voted, there was not a great deal of enthusiasm around voting and elected officials. It should be noted that no one identified as aligning with the Republican party in this group.

SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA
- Google is used as a method to verify the truthfulness of a news story. Validity of the story is confirmed if multiple news outlets report it.
- English and Spanish news are seen as different, this applies to the content as well as the way the news is covered.
- A participant referred to Facebook as "gossip-book" and is a less trusted source of political news for many in the group.

SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES
- A good citizen is seen as someone who is law-abiding, including paying taxes and several noted a connection to religious faith.
- Pessimism about candidates was expressed among several in the group. They view voting as picking between two bad options.
- Several shared that family members and friends don't vote because their vote doesn't matter and nothing ever changes.

SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES
- Participants see themselves as hard working, middle class Americans who don't receive government assistance.
- The economy, inflation and jobs are among the most important issues for these participants.
- Crime was thought to have a correlation with the economy. When the economy is good, crime goes down.
- Frustration was expressed for the lack of pathways of citizenship. DACA was specifically cited as an example of the breakdown in the system.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS
- Despite lack of progress, participants still view Democrats as better on the issue of immigration.
- Trump is disliked, but participants feel that the country was better economically when he was in office.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Google is used as a method to verify the truthfulness of a news story. Validity of the story is confirmed if multiple news outlets report it.
As with the other three groups, this group verified the truthfulness of a news story by whether or not it was run on multiple news outlets. Regarding political content, Google was noted as a trusted way to get additional information about candidates, and getting this information was described as an easy task to perform.

G3: [23:35] Mod: How do you check to see if the information is true or not?
G3: [23:42] N: Because it comes out on all of them, all of the newscasts.

G3: [29:07] A: I do quickly look at Facebook. But if suddenly a piece of news comes out that interests me, if I see that something happened, say in Mexico or another country like a tornado that killed many people. What I do is, I leave there and search directly, such as [through] Google or YouTube. Several of those to verify why it turns out that sometimes it is not true.

G3: [38:15] Mod: Is it difficult or easy to get information from all the candidates?
G3: [38:26] I: It's not difficult. Only putting the name in Google.

English and Spanish news are seen as different, this applies to the content as well as the way the news is covered.
This Spanish language group of participants shared that there was a difference in the ways English and Spanish media covered news stories, as well as the kinds of stories that are reported.

G3: [26:04] Mod: I want to talk about the difference between English and Spanish news. Are there differences?
Group responds yes.

G3: [29:45] T: The American news focuses on news for Americans who speak English, and the news in Spanish is focused…because you don't see any of the content that comes out on Univision or Telemundo…
.
G3: [30:20] T: I don't like them. They exaggerate everything.

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

A participant referred to Facebook as "gossip-book" and is a less trusted source of political news for many in the group.
Facebook was not viewed by most as a trusted source of political news but instead was seen as a source for gossip. Despite the lack of trust, many participants rely on Facebook for news and information within their social networks.

G3: [14:36] GA: I generate my information through research, I mean looking for why there has been, my parents say something because they saw it on Facebook but that is not the reason at all.

G3: [20:38] Mod: And where does that gossip come from? Where do they get this?
G3:[20:41] R: Almost always social media. [Group agreement]
G3:[20:41] Mod: On social media?
G3:[20:45] A: On Gossip-book [Group laughter]
G3:[20:45] Mod: Gossip-book…Instead of facebook.

G3: [29:01] I: Yes but I don't see it. Mostly don't see the news on Facebook.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

A good citizen seen as someone who is law-abiding, including paying taxes and several noted a connection to religious faith.
This group, far more than the others, noted the importance of following the law as an attribute of a good citizen and the consequences of not being one. Deportation was noted as a result of not performing the duties of a good citizen.

G3: [33:11] RA: [As] A good citizen I think you should behave well, pay your taxes, done and said. Obey the laws that the Country grants you. All countries have rules. You must follow the rules. I think it is to be a good citizen. There are some who like to break the rules. They are the ones who are in jail or who get deported.

G3: [33:48] T: And I think that for me to be a good citizen is when I begin to see God in all people. So wherever I am working, wherever I am anywhere, I see God in all of you….

G3: [34:32] A: I think being a good citizen means something different for each person, right? As in this case, the gentleman spoke more as a political type. You are talking about Christianity. I can speak in the form…perhaps as a…a good citizen. I think we should focus a lot, as you say, on being better human beings…There are ways to be a good citizen, you just have to be honest, friendship above all. Christianity, Catholic, no matter what the Lord says, no matter the religion.

Pessimism about candidates was expressed among several in the group. They view voting as picking between two bad options.
The members of this group shared that they voted, but had little enthusiasm for the candidates they chose. Most often, they described voting as a process in which the lesser of two evils was the choice, leading to political cynicism.

G3: [38:30] T: There are bad guys and less bad guys.
Group agrees.
G3: [38:30] N: And sometimes there is no choice.
G3: [38:38] A: Almost usually there is no option.

Several shared that family members and friends don't vote because the vote doesn't matter and that nothing ever changes.
While several participants noted the pessimism relating to politics among their family members who don't vote, they themselves are participating in elections. It's unclear what contributes to their deviation from family members in this regard.

G3: [49:10] I: My dad and my daughters have never wanted to vote. Because they say that a vote is nothing. Your vote is worth nothing.

G3: [49.27] A: In my house we are 8 brothers. After a certain time, they also said that we are not going to vote. There's really no reason [to vote].

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

Participants see themselves as hard working, middle class Americans who don't receive government assistance.
Several shared sentiments that the economy is causing hardships and they feel that as the middle class, they are not getting assistance that they need. Overall, the perception was that the government assistance was not available to them, and that neither party was delivering a better economic outcome for their families.

G3: [40:00] G: They are always going to get, the ones with money…or…there is a lot of help from the government, but all the promises of the middle class are not seen, they are never fulfilled. It's always difficult.

G3: [49:32] A: From what I remember nothing good has been achieved for us, well in my case, I have been here for 33 years, and have never received help from the government. And my husband doesn't make much money. Well, me neither. But my children, they are good workers. They earn enough. What they do is when they do their taxes, they pay the government. So one would like when someone asks for help, if they need it, they give it to them and that is disappointing because sometimes we do make an effort to vote and to be good people. Don't give trouble. Make our contribution, right. Maybe as her husband says, we are one. We are a minority that have no voice or vote.

G3: [1:30:54] RA: It's true. The one with the most money is the one in charge. But really the Republicans. Most of them are the ones with the most money. We are the middle class.

The economy, inflation and jobs are among the most important issues for these participants.
Many expressed that those with the money are the ones who are in charge and are the decision-makers. Since they perceive themselves as members of the middle class, these participants feel they have little control over politics and public policy. This is particularly troubling as they struggle to make ends meet with shrinking buying power.

G3: [1:00:00] GA: Whoever has money is the one who "rules" everyone's life and property.
G3: [1:01:32] N: When you see inflation and everything more expensive, the cost of living is more expensive. The food. Expenses of the house. One has a budget. To see inflation you have to see how you increase your budget.

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

Crime was thought to have a correlation with the economy. When the economy is good, crime goes down.

Participants were of the general belief that when people are out of work or unemployed, crime increases. It was unclear how they reached the conclusion that a correlation exists, but participants believed there to be a relationship.

G3: [1:03:19] GA: It's also about community. Everyone would say if there are jobs in the United States, crime goes down. If there is a lot of unemployment, crime goes up. Everything is based on the community…

G3: [1:22:35] GA: I say that…it is change. With Republicans, the community is better off. Less unemployment - more people working, there is less [crime]. And also the borders are safer because there are no drugs

Frustration was expressed for the lack of pathways of citizenship. DACA was specifically cited as an example of the breakdown in the system.

There was disappointment expressed toward the Democratic Party for their inability to deliver on promises made about immigration. DACA was specifically raised as an example of the broken immigration system and the Democrat's inability to bring about positive change on this issue. Participants' attitudes toward DACA recipients was positive and they characterized these immigrants as hardworking, with a shared desire to become citizens and positive contributors to society. This Spanish language group, far more than the other groups, discussed the issue of immigration in more detail. Their comments suggest greater depth and breadth on the subject matter.

G3: [1:06:46] A: many people vote in order to legalize the people that need it, because obviously not everyone qualifies [to vote], but it's important to legalize the people that do qualify. And they deserve to be here.

 G3: [1:07:10] N: Because there are people who have been working here for years.
G3: [1:07:12] RA: Give them a work visa! They want to work legally.

G3: [1:07:16] T: That's what you say. Everyone says citizenship. Why citizenship? What everyone here wants is permission to work legally.

G3: [1:07:26] N: But that's what people demand, the DACA people, they want citizenship.

G3: [1:07:32] T: But what people want is the [legal] permission to work - a permit, and to see their family and be able to go back [to their home country].

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

Despite lack of progress, participants still view Democrats as better on the issue of immigration.
There was a consensus within the group that the Democratic Party was better than the Republican Party on the issue of immigration. These attitudes persisted despite, as noted above, this group believing that the Democratic Party had not delivered on promises of immigration reform or providing a pathway to citizenship.

G3: [1:17:05] RO: Of the pros of the Democrats, I put aid, economic and immigration.

G3: [1:24:14] Mod: And on the immigration issue. Who deals better with the immigration issue, the Republic

Trump is disliked, but participants feel that the country was better economically when he was in office.
As was expressed in the other focus groups, this group of Spanish speakers commented that they did not like Trump. They specifically acknowledge his racist rhetoric, but still believed that the country was better off economically when he was in office. These attitudes suggest that participants were normalizing deviant behavior, even when the behavior is a direct personal attack against them.

[Moderator asks participants to list out pros and cons of each party.
G3: [1:18:55] N: Yes, I put them [the Republicans] in the positive. It's when they had the taxes. When Mr. Trump was around.

G3: [1:21:23] G: For the Republicans [they have] better money plans or money information. With Trump… the bad thing is that he is racist and all that. But at the end of the day, the country was better off on the economic side.
G3: [1:21:44] N: Some policies…yes, it was better.

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