

UNLOCKING THE HISPANIC VOTE

FOCUS GROUP REPORT

FLORIDA

EMERSON COLLEGE POLLING CENTER

120 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116
617-824-8500



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Objectives of the Study

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

Methodology

Three focus groups of participants of Hispanic ethnicity were conducted in Miami, Florida in June 2022: one of Hispanic registered voters who vote (conducted in English), a second of Hispanic non-registered citizens (conducted in English), and a third of Hispanic registered voters who vote (conducted in Spanish). Recruitment was done by the focus group facility, AskMiami, and a recruiting service company, Portable Insights, Inc., was utilized for the non-registered citizens group. Both recruiters used the same 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.

Emerson College Polling Research Team

Dr. Laura Barberena, Director of Hispanic Qualitative and Quantitative Research
Spencer Kimball, Executive Director
Isabel Holloway, Director of Survey Operations
Camille Mumford, Director of Communications

Student Research Assistants

Camila Arjona, undergraduate student in Political Communication
Clarisa Carrillo, undergraduate student in Political Communication

KEY FINDINGS

SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

There is a general distrust of the news media and especially news that appears on social media. Participants believe that there is an abundance of fake news on all media. Several participants shared that they believe the news media is biased and they don't trust it to be true and accurate. They expressed a belief that certain stations deliver news that is appealing to particular audiences, and that appeal is more important than reporting facts. They also believe that profits are dictating the news that gets covered.

Several participants shared that they use Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook and that these social media apps are a major source of news. They like the immediate nature of the platforms so they can be aware of news events as they are unfolding in real-time. However, they believe that certain news items and ads are fed to them through their social media platforms based on algorithms.

The participants rely heavily on the internet for news information more so than on television. They get their news from their smartphones and believe that if a story is important enough, it will appear online on multiple news feeds.

Google was identified as a trusted way to verify news stories, particularly breaking news stories. YouTube was also mentioned as a source for getting additional information, or where they go to watch the local news.

When asked whether they had greater trust in Spanish or English language news in the United States, several participants said they believed that Spanish language news is more exaggerated than English news, thus making it less trustworthy.

SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Most of the participants believe that it is the responsibility of parents and schools to teach good citizenship. One participant suggested that deviant behavior is caused by unstable homes. Another believed that schools are spending less and less time teaching civic education.

There was agreement that good citizens participate in protests, but participants shared that the protests must be civil and non-violent. They believe that someone who acts uncivil in protest was not acting like a good citizen.

A majority of the participants primarily vote only in presidential elections because they are aware of the candidates and the election itself. Several noted that they do not participate in local elections because they are not aware of the election, they are lazy, or there are simply too many candidates, like judges, and they don't have the time to research each race. In the non-registered citizens group, participants shared that they don't vote because they don't feel they know enough about the election or candidates on the ballot. They too specifically note the number of judges on the ballot and their lack of knowledge about each candidate.

Many participants expressed that they do not have confidence in the election process at both a local and national level. There is a lot of distrust in how elections are conducted as well as the media that reports on them. Participants also shared that they feel ballot measures are written purposely to confuse voters. And, several believe the election was stolen from Trump and feel that it was "rigged." Many come from home countries where elections are not conducted fairly, so they are less trustworthy of the overall election and voting system.

In the non-registered citizens group, participants shared that they would consider voting in a future election if there were better candidates running. They describe a better candidate as someone aggressive like Trump, though he was also described as reckless. They believe that Trump had his own money to run for office and believe that is a good thing because it makes him less beholden to special interests. Biden was described as weak and as suffering from dementia.

In the Spanish language group, all of the participants were born outside of the U.S. and became naturalized citizens. They believe it is their civic duty to vote. One participant shared that voting in the U.S. is what finally made them feel like an American citizen.

SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

The economy, which was defined broadly, is by far the most important issue for the participants, and they include inflation and the rising cost of living as part of the economy. Participants noted the rise in costs for specific items and overall that the rise in costs is particularly affecting low-income and young people. They shared that prices are rising while wages and salaries are remaining flat.

Many participants shared that the cost to purchase a home is going up, as is the cost of rent. While this has been happening for some time, several expressed that it is particularly difficult today to make ends meet and they are concerned about their future and their children's ability to afford purchasing a home.

Though not ranked as the top issue, immigration was rated as an important issue and it was expressed that nothing is being done to address this issue by either political party. Participants support the process of legal Immigration and believe that people need to follow proper channels to migrate legally into the U.S. There was no discussion about amnesty for those who entered without permission, nor any discussion about DACA.

The recent mass shootings have left several participants anxious and worried about the possibility of them or their family members being victims of gun violence. The randomness of the shootings makes them extremely uneasy. It was noted that mass shootings have happened under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

The Republican Party brand is very much tied to Donald Trump. He is seen as the face of the Republican Party. Many view him positively because of the current downturn of the economy under the Biden administration. They believe the economy was better under President Donald Trump and the Republican Party.

While the economy was perceived as being better under Republican Party leadership, social unrest was described as being more prominent. One participant suggested that the media was to blame for that. President Trump is not necessarily liked for his brash personality, but he is given credit for the U.S. having a good economy during his administration. Republican participants describe Trump as a successful businessman who was not a typical politician and successfully ran the country like a business.

The Republican party is viewed as the party of law and order and represents more traditional values, like God and family. These are seen as positive attributes, though the Party's stance on abortion was mixed. Several felt there should be an exception for rape and incest.

The racist rhetoric of the Republican Party keeps one Democratic-leaning participant from viewing the republican party in a positive way, otherwise, they would feel more positive toward republicans. The racism neutralizes their opinion.

When asked if the political parties are inviting to Hispanics, participants shared that Florida is unique, because of the many Hispanics that live there. A participant shared that Hispanics are already involved in the political parties, the Republican party in particular.

Both parties are viewed as failing on the issue of immigration.



FULL REPORT

20th Street 1/2
Park Ave 1
38th Ave 1
Junction I-70 1 1/2

INTRODUCTION

On June 6 and 8, 2022, a total of three (3) focus groups were conducted in Miami, Florida 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 Florida state-wide survey (also conducted by Emerson College Polling Center) provided a foundation for this qualitative research project. Furthermore, this Florida project is part of a larger study that will investigate these same key areas of concentration in a total of six U.S. states with significant Hispanic populations.

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

METHODOLOGY

Three Florida focus groups were conducted at a professional focus group facility, AskMiami, located in Coral Gables, a municipality near Miami, Florida.

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, June 6, 2022, 5:30 pm
 - Hispanic Registered Voters (conducted in English) - 8 participants
- Group 2 - Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 6:00 pm
 - Hispanic Non-Registered Citizens (conducted in English) - 8 participants
- Group 3 - Monday, June 6, 2022, 7:30 pm
 - Hispanic Registered Voters (conducted in Spanish) - 9 participants

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

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

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

KEY FINDINGS

SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

There is a general distrust of the news media and especially news that appears on social media. Participants believe that there is an abundance of fake news on all media. Several participants shared that they believe the news media is biased and they don't trust it to be true and accurate. They expressed a belief that certain stations deliver news that is appealing to particular audiences, and that appeal is more important than reporting facts. They also believe that profits are dictating the news that gets covered.

Several participants shared that they use Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook and that these social media apps are a major source of news. They like the immediate nature of the platforms so they can be aware of news events as they are unfolding in real-time. However, they believe that certain news items and ads are fed to them through their social media platforms based on algorithms.

The participants rely heavily on the internet for news information more so than on television. They get their news from their smartphones and believe that if a story is important enough, it will appear online on multiple news feeds.

Google was identified as a trusted way to verify news stories, particularly breaking news stories. YouTube was also mentioned as a source for getting additional information, or where they go to watch the local news.

When asked whether they had greater trust in Spanish or English language news in the United States, several participants said they believed that Spanish language news is more exaggerated than English news, thus making it less trustworthy.

SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Most of the participants believe that it is the responsibility of parents and schools to teach good citizenship. One participant suggested that deviant behavior is caused by unstable homes. Another believed that schools are spending less and less time teaching civic education.

There was agreement that good citizens participate in protests, but participants shared that the protests must be civil and non-violent. They believe that someone who acts uncivil in protest was not acting like a good citizen.

A majority of the participants primarily vote only in presidential elections because they are aware of the candidates and the election itself. Several noted that they do not participate in local elections because they are not aware of the election, they are lazy, or there are simply too many candidates, like judges, and they don't have the time to research each race. In the non-registered citizens group, participants shared that they don't vote because they don't feel they know enough about the election or candidates on the ballot. They too specifically note the number of judges on the ballot and their lack of knowledge about each candidate.

Many participants expressed that they do not have confidence in the election process at both a local and national level. There is a lot of distrust in how elections are conducted as well as the media that reports on them. Participants also shared that they feel ballot measures are written purposely to confuse voters. And, several believe the election was stolen from Trump and feel that it was "rigged." Many come from home countries where elections are not conducted fairly, so they are less trustworthy of the overall election and voting system.

In the non-registered citizens group, participants shared that they would consider voting in a future election if there were better candidates running. They describe a better candidate as someone aggressive like Trump, though he was also described as reckless. They believe that Trump had his own money to run for office and believe that is a good thing because it makes him less beholden to special interests. Biden was described as weak and as suffering from dementia.

In the Spanish language group, all of the participants were born outside of the U.S. and became naturalized citizens. They believe it is their civic duty to vote. One participant shared that voting in the U.S. is what finally made them feel like an American citizen.

SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

The economy, which was defined broadly, is by far the most important issue for the participants, and they include inflation and the rising cost of living as part of the economy. Participants noted the rise in costs for specific items and overall that the rise in costs is particularly affecting low-income and young people. They shared that prices are rising while wages and salaries are remaining flat.

Many participants shared that the cost to purchase a home is going up, as is the cost of rent. While this has been happening for some time, several expressed that it is particularly difficult today to make ends meet and they are concerned about their future and their children's ability to afford purchasing a home.

Though not ranked as the top issue, immigration was rated as an important issue and it was expressed that nothing is being done to address this issue by either political party. Participants support the process of legal Immigration and believe that people need to follow proper channels to migrate legally into the U.S. There was no discussion about amnesty for those who entered without permission, nor any discussion about DACA.

The recent mass shootings have left several participants anxious and worried about the possibility of them or their family members being victims of gun violence. The randomness of the shootings makes them extremely uneasy. It was noted that mass shootings have happened under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

The Republican Party brand is very much tied to Donald Trump. He is seen as the face of the Republican Party. Many view him positively because of the current downturn of the economy under the Biden administration. They believe the economy was better under President Donald Trump and the Republican Party.

While the economy was perceived as being better under Republican Party leadership, social unrest was described as being more prominent. One participant suggested that the media was to blame for that. President Trump is not necessarily liked for his brash personality, but he is given credit for the U.S. having a good economy during his administration. Republican participants describe Trump as a successful businessman who was not a typical politician and successfully ran the country like a business.

The Republican party is viewed as the party of law and order and represents more traditional values, like God and family. These are seen as positive attributes, though the Party's stance on abortion was mixed. Several felt there should be an exception for rape and incest.

The racist rhetoric of the Republican Party keeps one Democratic-leaning participant from viewing the republican party in a positive way, otherwise, they would feel more positive toward republicans. The racism neutralizes their opinion.

When asked if the political parties are inviting to Hispanics, participants shared that Florida is unique, because of the many Hispanics that live there. A participant shared that Hispanics are already involved in the political parties, the Republican party in particular.

Both parties are viewed as failing on the issue of immigration.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 1

FOCUS GROUP 1 PARTICIPANTS

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

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

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Male	60	Cuban	Republican	G1: NM
Female	51	Cuban	Republican	G1: D
Female	53	Argentina	Independent	G1: A
Female	26	Panama	Democrat	G1: NV
Male	45	Puerto Rico	Independent	G1: J
Male	52	Cuban	Democrat	G1: CG
Male	29	Nicaragua	Democrat	G1: R
Male	44	Argentina	Republican	G1: CC

Key Findings: Group 1

SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

- There was a very negative and cynical attitude toward the news media. Several participants shared that they believe the news media is biased and they don't trust it to be true and accurate. They expressed a belief that certain stations deliver news that is appealing to particular audiences, and that appeal is more important than reporting facts. They also believe that profits are dictating the news that gets covered.
- Several participants shared that they use Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook and that these social media apps are a major source of news. They believe that certain news items and ads are fed to them through their social media platforms based on algorithms, therefore they don't need to follow or subscribe to political content because the algorithms target them.
- The participants rely heavily on the internet for news information more so than on television. They get their news from their smartphones and believe that if a story is important enough, it will appear online on multiple news feeds. While they believe that the internet and social media provide more information than television, they don't completely trust the news coming from social media. Overall, there is a lack of trust in all media sources.
- Participants shared that they still read local newspapers, but they are accessing them electronically, not reading the physical newspaper. One participant shared that they stopped reading the local newspaper because they believed its coverage was "too extreme."
- When participants do follow political figures on social media, they follow only top-of-ticket candidates like presidential and gubernatorial, specifically Ron DeSantis who was viewed positively. Trump was mentioned as being followed by some who liked him and his policies and by others who wanted to know what extreme opinions he was posting.
- Two participants shared that they trust individuals more than media agencies. Independent journalists or popular personalities were cited as being more trustworthy.
- One participant shared that they like the days when the news was not editorialized. They recalled that when stations put forth opinions and editorials they took place during a very specific allotted time on a newscast. They liked that this was separated and felt that there is no separation on today's broadcasts.
- Watching the news coverage during the height of COVE made one participant scared. News during COVID was just too much for one participant, and they shared that they stopped watching the news because it was overwhelming.
- Participants believe that algorithms on social media are determining the content of their news feeds. They see a connection between advertising dollars and the content they are getting on their feeds. And, there was a discussion about how large corporate conglomerates are dictating news content. They believe that profits, and money in general, are influencing what it puts out to the public.
- Engagement of news story content on social media, such as posting or liking a comment, was thought to lead to more news content of a similar type being added to their social media feeds. To avoid this, participants shared that they don't react or engage with news content.

Key Findings: Group 1 Continued

SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

- Participants defined good citizens as caring for others, following laws, paying taxes, and standing up for what is right. One participant noted that a good citizen must know the U.S. government and how it works.
- There was consensus within the group that it is the responsibility of schools, but especially parents to teach children to be good citizens. One participant noted that this is challenging for children who don't have both parents or who have working parents.
- A majority of the participants primarily vote only in presidential elections because they are aware of the candidates and the election itself. Several noted that they do not participate in local elections because they are not aware of the election, they are lazy, or there are simply too many candidates, like judges, and they don't have the time to research each race.
- Many participants expressed that they do not have confidence in the election process. There is a lot of distrust in how elections are conducted as well as the media that reports on them. Participants also shared that they feel ballot measures are written purposely to confuse voters. And, several believe the election was stolen from Trump and feel that it was "rigged."
- There is a general distrust of politicians, and they are described as corrupt. Choosing between different candidates was described by one participant as having to "pick your poison."
- One participant shared that they felt bombarded with political advertisements, particularly by presidential campaigns. They discussed the onslaught of political mail and commercials that fill the airways during election time. For some, there is just too much information reaching them.
- When they lack information, they will vote along party lines. Participants shared that when voting in local elections where a great number of people are on the ballot, they must do a lot of research to learn about each.
- While Governor DeSantis was mentioned as someone who participants follow on social media, there was no mention of Senator Marco Rubio throughout the conversation.

Key Findings: Group 1 Continued

SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

- The economy is by far the most important issue for the participants, and they include inflation and the rising cost of living as part of the economy. Participants noted the rise in costs for specific items and overall that the rise in costs is particularly affecting low-income and young people. One participant who is retired expressed concerns about his retirement fund.
- Many participants shared that the cost to purchase a home is going up, as is the cost of rent. They expressed that it's difficult to make ends meet, particularly with the rise in the prices of food and gas.
- Participants expressed concern for voting rights and stressed the importance of voting, yet many admitted that they do not participate in local elections. The rights of felons to vote was mentioned, as the state recently passed a constitutional amendment to allow felons to restore their voting rights.
- Immigration was rated as an important issue and it was expressed that nothing is being done to address this issue by either political party.
- Two of the 3 women participants rated abortion as very important (10), and the other rated it a one not important (1) because she is no longer of childbearing age. One male who rated it as the most important issue expressed that he was pro-life, yet still believed that women have the right to make choices about their own bodies. Another male participant, who did not rate the issue as important, also argued that women should decide for themselves.
- Only one participant rated climate change as being the most important issue to them, despite the increased number of hurricanes and the recent hurricane in Puerto Rico. Six was the average ranking given to climate change by the rest of the group.
- Crime and public safety ranked high among this group. Participants shared that armed security is important in decreasing crime, whether it be at schools, shopping centers, or places of worship. And one participant noted that mass shootings have happened under both Republican and Democratic administrations.
- Participants shared that racism is a major issue that still affects them. They have personally experienced it. A few noted that racism is particularly rampant online.

Key Findings: Group 1 Continued

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

- Some participants hark back to a time when politics were less divisive. They recollect a time when there was less polarization between the left and the right, and less hate was expressed.
- The Democratic Party is seen as divisive with communistic, socialist leanings. A participant noted that they do not agree with the party's position on banning guns, but qualified their position by saying they did not need an assault-style weapon to protect themselves. Biden is perceived as old and out of touch. One participant shared that they believed in the "deep state."
- The Republican Party brand is very much tied to Donald Trump. This group sees him as the face of the Republican Party. Most view him positively because of the current downturn of the economy under the Biden administration. They believe the economy was better under President Donald Trump. It should be noted that aside from general negative descriptions of President Trump's personality, there was no mention of any specific policies or activities undertaken by him during his term in office.
- The racist rhetoric of the Republican Party keeps one Democratic-leaning participant from viewing the republican party in a positive way, otherwise, they would feel more positive toward republicans. The racism neutralizes their opinion.
- When asked if the political parties are inviting to Hispanics, participants shared that Florida is unique, because of the many Hispanics that live there. A participant shared that Hispanics are already involved in the political parties, the Republican party in particular. Another felt that Hispanics are being manipulated by the political parties.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

There was a very negative and cynical attitude toward the news media.

Several participants shared that they believe the news media is biased and they don't trust it to be true and accurate. They expressed a belief that certain stations deliver news that is appealing to particular audiences, and that appeal is more important than reporting facts. They also believe that profits are dictating the news that gets covered.

G1: NM (00:13:17): Personal observation is there's- there's huge media bias. From the left and the right, if you wanna call it that. And no matter what you see, I like to look at different things to get different perspectives. And it's so different what you see on this channel, what you don't hear about on this channel, but really happens, you know, elsewhere or you can hear about it on this. Uh, I try to... You know, if I'm... my political leanings are center-right so I kinda lean that way but, you know, you also gotta look at the other side. Um, I just think people that follow one or look at the other, they just kinda get on a single track.

G1: NV (00:14:35): I don't like watching the news 'cause you never know what's true or not. And like, there's just so much bad stuff that I just don't wanna know sometimes. I don't wanna see it. But I'm bound to see it on social media or just hear about it anywhere.

Moderator (00:20:25): Well, what makes one news source more trustworthy than another?

G1: J (00:20:29): Uh, sometimes it's hard because there's misinformation but you're balancing... Sometimes, it's hard. It's hard. I'm not gonna, you know, say it's not.

G1: A (00:21:53): Yeah, it's hard to- to- to trust. You know, I think that they like to promote bad news because it- it attracts viewers and it's that wow factor. But it- it's hard, yeah, it's hard to trust. I do watch the local news more than national news. Uh, but at the same time, I try to like just shut off sometimes 'cause it's just all so depressing and sad.

G1: NM (00:25:23): There's a whole... There's so many more news outlets today. Everybody's, you know, a news outlet and if... I'm a research guy. I like to go and, you know, get on and see who owns these places. And that's kinda like... And see which way they lean, right or left, and then you start watching. And there's a lot of people that, you know, it's... The, who, the guys pulling the strings in the back are the guys writing the checks. Um, put out what they want, how they want. So the guys out in front of the camera have to abide by that because they're getting paid. That's the way I see it.

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

Several participants shared that they use Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook and that these social media apps are a major source of news.

They believe that certain news items and ads are fed to them through their social media platforms based on algorithms, therefore they don't need to follow or subscribe to political content because the algorithms target them.

G1: NV (00:14:21): Well, with how Instagram and Twitter and everything works, I'm sure you know, you just get everything now. You don't even have to be following them, they just show up on your feed. [crosstalk 00:14:30] Yeah. The algorithm.

G1: R (00:15:09): Like, if you search something up, you know, like a specific topic like on the news or whatever, it's gonna pop up eventually, you know, like different types of outlets and, uh, stations...

G1: A (00:28:02): But I think it also depends on the algorithm, like you guys were saying, because, like, for example, when I go on Facebook, I don't really get that much news feed. I get, like, shopping... classes and shoes, because I guess they know that I've shopped before and I've clicked on something that I liked. So I get a lot of ads on- on clothes and shoes. I don't get that much news. I think it's the algorithm.

The participants rely heavily on the internet for news information more so than on television.

They get their news from their smartphones and believe that if a story is important enough, it will appear online on multiple news feeds. While they believe that the internet and social media provide more information than television, they don't completely trust the news coming from social media. Overall, there is a lack of trust in all media sources.

Moderator (00:14:50): Well, what kinda news do you get from your smartphone versus your television?

G1: R (00:14:54): It depends, um... I would say it's like, it could be the same like depending on what you... It goes back to what she said. Like even though she might not watch it, I mean, somehow it appears, you know, on social media.

G1: NV (00:15:26): Everything. Like all the shootings, all the- the cases with like all the rappers, all the actors... The weather... I get everything and then I think the internet you just get more views, different point of views and stuff and I don't think, maybe the TV doesn't cover as broadly.

G1: NM (00:29:06): At least I do. Before- before I repost or do anything, because I don't wanna get, uh, crap from everybody if I put something out that was false. So now you gotta sit there and verify everything and it becomes, like, a job, it's-

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

G1: J (00:29:21): I had that experience with a friend of mine, she- I'm like, "You forward this, it had to do with COVID and it had to do with one of John F. Kennedy's nephews who was against the vaccinations," and I told her, "Where you got this from?" She posted it and that- that was misinformation, because, you know, I forgot what was the subject, but it had to do with the vaccinations, I mean, this is not ... And when I went online, googling, I'm like, this is what happens when someone posted so- something to create fear, and- and then she- she apologized. I'm like, "You just gotta be careful, 'cause you just sent me this. I don't see this in- in the headline news, you know?"

G1: CC (00:17:51): Yeah, I don't really watch TV ever. So.

Moderator (00:17:52): So where do you get your news from then? The newspaper?

G1: CC (00:17:56): Twitter sends you an update on all the news to the phone as a message, every hour.

Participants shared that they still read local newspapers, but they are accessing them electronically, not reading the physical newspaper.

The shrinking size of the Miami Herald newspaper was mentioned and this was perceived as a negative development. One participant shared that they stopped reading the local newspaper because they believed its coverage was “too extreme.”

Moderator (00:27:06): Do you read the paper at all?

G1: NM (00:27:08): I used to love to read the paper. At the fire station, I'd look at the paper every day, so when you get there early, have your coffee, read the paper. Chill. Um, but now, uh, they all went a little too extreme, some of the stuff they were doing, so I just canceled all that.

G1: A (00:26:29): ... you know, on my phone, the Miami Herald comes... you know, comes through.

Moderator (00:26:32): But you don't actually look at the paper physically, you just look at it electronically?

G1: A (00:26:35): Right. Not- not physically anymore.

Moderator (00:27:27): What about you, D? Do you look at it electronically or anything?

G1: D (00:27:28): I look at it electronically. Yeah, I used to love picking up the newspaper..But, like, um, like NM was saying, I think, like, if you look at the size of a newspaper... a few years back, I'm like, if you see anyone ... 'cause it- it's barely even seen in places anymore. If you do see one, it's super, super thin. It's like, what happened?

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

When participants do follow political figures on social media, they follow only top-of-ticket candidates like presidential and gubernatorial.

Ron DeSantis who was viewed positively. Trump was mentioned as being followed by some who liked him and his policies and by others who wanted to know what extreme opinions he was posting.

G1: CC (00:30:16): I follow Donald Trump.

G1: R (00:30:32): I used to follow Obama.

G1: R (00:30:37): No, no. And then, uh, Trump, I think I would just, like, just go on his page, see what crazy stuff he was talking about.

G1: NV (00:30:56): Like, I would just see what crazy new thing Trump was posting.

Moderator (00:31:30): I'm sorry, CC, you said you follow Ron DeSantis, too?

G1: CC (00:31:32): DeSantis, too, yeah.

Two participants shared that they trust individuals more than media agencies.

Independent journalists or popular personalities were cited as being more trustworthy.

Moderator (00:17:18): What media sources do you trust the most?

G1: CC (00:17:33): I trust Elon Musk.

Moderator (00:18:18): What media sources do you trust the most? Do you trust television?

G1: J (00:18:26): Sometimes I watch television but it depends 'cause sometimes I listen to independent journalism, uh, journalists, excuse me. And other ones, uh, I watch sometimes Fox. I don't agree with them all the time. Sometimes CNN. And, uh, and sometimes when it comes to national things, sometimes I don't even listen to just to US, Australia. Like I think it's Skyline, and sometimes Al-Jazeera because sometimes the point of view is not the same here in the US. And- and- and I try to filter. I try to filter, I mean, what I'm listening to.

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

One participant shared that they like the days when the news was not editorialized.

They recalled that when stations put forth opinions and editorials they took place during a very specific allotted time on a newscast. They liked that this was separated and felt that there is no separation on today's broadcasts.

G1: NM (00:22:56): For sure. I mentioned news back in the day. And again, back to the old Walter Cronkite. It's maybe before your time and stuff but this guy would give you the news, straight up. Even Channel 10 and all of these local channels would give you the news and at the end they would run an editorial. And that's where somebody gave you their opinion or their spin or whatever, you know, the company owner or whatever wanted to put out. But otherwise, it was just, here it is. You figure it out. I don't need somebody else to tell me what I just heard, and... But nowadays, it's- it's all spin, one way or the other.

Watching the news coverage during the height of COVE made one participant scared.

News during COVID was just too much for one participant, and they shared that they stopped watching the news because it was overwhelming.

G1: R (00:21:12): Um... but once the pandemic first started and all the COVID cases, I realized how like, how much stuff they put out there and like, you know, like they said COVID was like the end of the world. I'm like, I need to get my mind off that. You know? And it was super scary.

Moderator (00:21:25): So you stopped watching it because it was just too much?

G1: R (00:21:28): Yeah. And I'll watch it here and there just to keep up, um, and see what's going on. But it goes back to what he said. You know, it's like every- everything is like the same. And I feel, I feel like if I watch ABC and then Fox News and CNN. They're all talking about the same thing and I just try to like stay away from it honestly.

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

Participants believe that algorithms on social media are determining the content of their news feeds.

They see a connection between advertising dollars and the content they are getting on their feeds. And, there was a discussion about how large corporate conglomerates are dictating news content. They believe that profits, and money in general, are influencing what it puts out to the public.

Moderator (00:27:46): Mm-hmm. Uh, I wanna talk a little bit more about social media. G1: NV talked a little bit about social media, but how much of the news that you get comes from social media, like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok? How much of it comes from that, would you say?

G1: D (00:27:59): A lot. I think most of my resources come from there.

G1: A (00:28:02):

But I think it also depends on the algorithm, like you guys were saying, because, like, for example, when I go on Facebook, I don't really get that much news feed. I get, like, shopping-

G1: NM (00:28:13): Yeah.

G1: A (00:28:13): ... classes and shoes, because I guess they know that I've shopped before and I've clicked on something that I liked.

Engagement of news story content on social media, such as posting or liking a comment, was thought to lead to more news content of a similar type being added to their social media feeds.

To avoid this, participants shared that they don't react or engage with news content.

G1: NM (00:25:23): There's a whole... There's so many more news outlets today. Everybody's, you know, a news outlet and if... I'm a research guy. I like to go and, you know, get on and see who owns these places. And that's kinda like... And see which way they lean, right or left, and then you start watching. And there's a lot of people that, you know, it's... The, who, the guys pulling the strings in the back are the guys writing the checks. Um, put out what they want, how they want. So the guys out in front of the camera have to abide by that because they're getting paid. That's the way I see it.

Moderator (00:25:56): Does any, does anybody disagree with NM? Or you all agree?

G1: J (00:25:59): I- I agree with him because the thing about, for example, Telemundo's big, and I- you know, I watch Telemundo, but it's owned by NBC. So it's not like Spanish or English. They're saying they're all in the same pocket.

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

G1: A (00:28:17): So I get a lot of ads on- on clothes and shoes. I don't get that much news. I think it's the algorithm.

G1: CG (00:28:24): Yeah, I get- I don't get that much on- on news-wise on Facebook, but I, like-

G1: CC (00:28:28): ... do other types of things, uh, either events or things that are, like, happening. So yeah, that's not one I would even-

G1: NV (00:28:33): Like, sometimes-

G1: CG (00:28:33): ... my case-

G1: NV (00:28:37): ... it's not even just like the news, it's, like, people posting about the news.

G1: NM (00:28:38): Mm-hmm. Yeah.

G1: NV (00:28:41): It's like, your friends, your families, or-

G1: NV (00:28:42): ... whoever, them reposting the news or reposting other people's posts.

G1: A (00:28:47): And I guess if you engage with your friends or-

G1: NV (00:28:49): Yeah.

G1: A (00:28:49): ... share their posts, then you'll- in the future you'll get more bad news, you know?

G1: A (00:28:53): So I try not to engage too much.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Participants defined good citizens as caring for others, following laws, paying taxes, and standing up for what is right.

One participant noted that a good citizen must know the U.S. government and how it works.

G1: NM (00:34:38): Being a citizen also implies that you're part of something bigger, like a country, you know? Pledge of allegiance to that flag or the country, even if it doesn't mean you gotta be standing up and saluting all the time, just- just common decency.

G1: D (00:34:56): Being respectful and being empathetic and, you know, helping others and helping your community, be involved with your community.

Moderator (00:35:01): What ... Being involved with the community, what- like, what do you mean?

G1: D (00:35:05): Giving back or getting involved to see how we can make things better for our community, for where you are, 'cause you're part of it. Um, I think, like, like, if you're ... that's just an example, if you're living in a dumpster area, do you want trash around you? No. So it's good to stand up and speak and get involved and how we can- can we make this better for everyone?

G1: CG (00:37:02): Uh, I don't know, it's like participating in the process to be part of the ... 'Cause sometimes, uh, I- I don't know, I've done ... You- you're- you're fed up with something and- but if you don't have ... you know, you don't vote or whatever, then you can't complain. And sometimes, um, I'll tell me wife, like, we- we kinda get used to certain things, uh, that are done, like they're- they're wrong, but we, I guess as society, we- we keep going along with it, and you have to, like, it takes more people to, like, you know, uh, stand up for something and then something that's not right will stop, you know- won't continue to happen, there'll- there'll be- there'll be a change... if you make, you know, your- your voice heard, you- you- you vote-

G1: NM (00:38:58): The individual needs to learn about his government, his local government. You don't have to be studious, but at least understand how government works.

There was consensus within the group that it is the responsibility of schools, but especially parents to teach children to be good citizens.

One participant noted that this is challenging for children who don't have both parents or who have working parents.

Moderator (00:39:06): And who should be teaching that?

G1: NM (00:39:07): School, should be teaching it. You need to keep up on it.

G1: J (00:39:20): Parents have to-

G1: NV (00:39:20): Well, I think it all starts at home. That it's parents it starts at home.

G1: J (00:39:30): But it's challenging if the- if the parents' not, you know, there. you know? But it starts at home.

Moderator (00:39:30): Anybody else? Whose job is it to teach someone to be a good citizen?

G1: R (00:39:35): For sure it's the parents.

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

A majority of the participants primarily vote only in presidential elections because they are aware of the candidates and the election itself.

Several noted that they do not participate in local elections because they are not aware of the election, they are lazy, or there are simply too many candidates, like judges, and they don't have the time to research each race.

Moderator (00:45:22): And when you don't participate in local, what's keeping you from participating?

G1: A (00:45:27): Laziness. Not wanting to stand in line, not going out there.

G1: NM (00:47:23): Do I vote? Yes. Presidential, yes. Local, yes. The problem is there's too many names. You vote for judges and this and the other. You know, you can't ... You didn't have internet back in the day in 1980 and '90, it's like, how do you- how do you do the research if you don't have a newspaper? And who has the time? So it's all about time, what you're doing in your life, but yeah, I vote as often as I can. When I see names that I recognize, I go just for those names.

G1: J (00:52:18): Locally is- is important, but even some candidates, like when it comes with judges, I have to go online because I don't know these people, you know

G1: A (00:54:22): For the local ones, I actually forgot a couple of times.

G1: CG (00:54:24): Me too.

G1: A (00:54:26): Until I see it in the news, like, "Oh, the polls are going to close in an hour." And I'm like, "What? People are voting today?"

Moderator (00:55:47): Anything else? G1: NV? Do you um, is there a time that you haven't voted that you can think of?

G1: NV (00:55:52): Um, probably in the local ones. Just 'cause I didn't know, but I've- I've only been able to vote for two presidential elections, and I voted for those.

Many participants expressed that they do not have confidence in the election process.

There is a lot of distrust in how elections are conducted as well as the media that reports on them. Participants also shared that they feel ballot measures are written purposely to confuse voters. And, several believe the election was stolen from Trump and feel that it was "rigged."

G1: D (00:46:16):... end of the day with- with that, and it's kind of 'cause I believe with the local, it's kinda like decisions are pre-made sometimes, and I don't know. I just-

Moderator (00:46:25): What do you ... Um, I'm sorry, can you say more, um, what do you mean they're pre-made?

G1: D (00:46:29): I think- I think most of them are- are- are rigged or something. I don't know. It, just, that's what it feels like to me. I think they're rigged and before you even get out there-

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

G1: A (00:48:10): I wanted to say that, it's funny that you said that, because some of the questions sound like trick questions, you know? Like, if you wanna say, "Yes, I want this," but they make ... The way they word it, you have to put no, you know? 'Cause..It's just ... and the questions are so long, it's- they sound so complicated. Why can't they just make it simpler? On the ballot so you.. can say, "Yes"? You know, but it's- it's som- sometimes it's like a trick question-

G1: R (00:48:44): Uh, uh, I think it's rigged.

Moderator (00:48:45): You do?

G1: R (00:48:45): Yeah, for sure.

Moderator (00:48:47): What makes you say that?

G1: R (00:48:48): I don't know, just, like, the whole thing with, like, in the 2016 election with Russia and- and Trump... and all that, and, I mean, he won, you know? And then, um, 2020, I mean, I thought Trump was gonna win again, 'cause his whole Russia thing, then- and now we have Biden, so-

G1: J (00:49:42): Yeah, I think it was rigged. I- I think changes should be done. That's just my opinion, I could be wrong and not let local [inaudible 00:49:49], they should become federal, I don't even need to know if that would be the best, but it would mean- make changes so- so there could be more accountability you know? And I think it was rigged.

Moderator (00:49:59): Mm- hmm. You think it was rigged here in Florida or nationally?

G1: J (00:50:01):Both. I mean, nationally, even now, someone po- a friend of mine's posted something from- from some mayor, uh, or someone who was in authority, now she's in jail. She- you know, she tampered with the- with the- with the ballots and, like, unbelievable, you know?

Moderator (01:35:55): So you think the election was rigged?

G1: CC (01:35:56): For sure 100%.

Moderator (01:35:58): Okay.

G1: CC (01:35:59): It's like 9-11, everything comes to light eventually okay?

G1: NM (01:36:02): It, it is interesting. I'm 60 years old, how many elections are there, do the math. And never, never, in any election, presidential, has the election not been decided that evening, by 11 o'clock at night. You know what president.

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

There is a general distrust of politicians, and they are described as corrupt.

Choosing between different candidates was described by one participant as having to "pick your poison."

G1: CG (00:44:04): ... they're (politicians) all cor- ... you know, corrupt and that, which maybe it's true..

G1: NV (00:44:21): I think my- my parents and the-Like, I don't even remember exactly, but I feel like my high school also had, like, a big part, I think it was probably in an election year or something. Um, and I guess just having a choice. Like, the being a part, every vote counts, even if the person you're voting for doesn't win and you still vote, sometimes you- sometimes you have to pick your poison. Um, just use your vote. Your vote counts. Using your voice, that's how we use our voice.

One participant shared that they felt bombarded with political advertisements, particularly by presidential campaigns.

They discussed the onslaught of political mail and commercials that fill the airways during election time. For some, there is just too much information reaching them.

G1: J (00:54:57): Could I retract? Sometimes you're bombarded. And it happens all the time, the advertisement that's non-stop, and not- and junk mail, no, not junk mail, but mail, so it's hard to like, you know, yeah, I receive mail but I didn't- I, you know, I don't know. They got my information because it's public, you know, so it's hard, you know, not to know that, you know voting is just through mail alone, you know, it's- you get bombarded with endorsements.

Moderator (00:55:19): Are you getting it for a local elections or just presidential?

G1: J (00:55:21): Local and national. It happens all the time you know. Sometimes I- I don't know, I- I read what's on it, you know, so it's hard, you know, like, to- the same in the commercials, obviously, you know, in the advertisements, that's strong when it comes to elections.

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

When they lack information, they will vote along party lines.

Participants shared that when voting in local elections where a great number of people are on the ballot, they must do a lot of research to learn about each.

G1: J (00:52:26): So, but I think it's important [crosstalk 00:52:29]. School, you know, you know, education, so what I do, I go online and try to follow, see what the person believes, but even that's challenging. And the judge is talking about locally. Some people don't care for it, and I have respect. But, you know, for the future here, you know, and judges too, you know. So I try to get different resources online, see what comes up.

Nicholas (00:52:48): You want to go along party lines a lot because of that.

While Governor DeSantis was mentioned as someone who participants follow on social media, there was no mention of Senator Marco Rubio throughout the conversation.

Nicholas (00:31:11): I follow Ron DeSantis-

Moderator (00:31:30): I'm sorry, Christian, you said you follow Ron DeSantis, too?

Christian (00:31:32): DeSantis, too, yeah.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

The economy is by far the most important issue for the participants, and they include inflation and the rising cost of living as part of the economy.

Participants noted the rise in costs for specific items and overall that the rise in costs is particularly affecting low-income and young people. One participant who is retired expressed concerns about his retirement fund.

G1: R (00:08:37): I went the other day, I went to- to Flanagan's (laughs) to- to meet one of my friends. And then, just the price of a burger, how it was like two years ago compared to what it is now. It was like nine bucks back then. Now, it's like close to 14, like 13, 14 bucks. I'm like what is going on here? Like, it's...

G1: A (00:08:55): Everything is-

G1: R (00:08:56): And the gas prices.

G1: A (00:08:56): The meat.

G1: R (00:08:57): The meat. Everything.

G1: A (00:08:57): Everything.

G1: R (00:08:59): Dog food...

G1: A (00:09:01): Hair cut. It's everything- everything is going up.

Moderator (01:02:00): Okay. And when I say the- when you say the economy or we talk about the economy, what does that mean to you? When we- when we talk about the economy? What does that mean?

G1: D (01:02:07): Just ties in with inflation and high costs. Um, you know, property values going up and down, and taxes going up.

Moderator (01:02:18): Okay.

G1: D (01:02:19): Property taxes.

G1: CC (01:03:03): I just see the inflation and the rising costs. It's like they are uh, running the lower income people out of Florida. You know, and they're lowering the middle class to a lower income, you know.

G1: A (01:03:16): And the young people too. Uh, I- I feel so bad for the young people that are just trying to start out and like, you guys, trying to independent, live by yourself-

G1: NV (01:03:25): And we can't. And you can't.

G1: NM (01:04:11): It's not really the young though. In 40 years you're going to be my age and when you're this old and you know, you're- you're- all your life you've been saving and now you're watching your savings or you know, your retirement accounts go like that, you know, you don't have that many years to recover as a young person does, so that's- that's worrisome.

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

Many participants shared that the cost to purchase a home is going up, as is the cost of rent. They expressed that it's difficult to make ends meet, particularly with the rise in the prices of food and gas.

G1: CG (00:12:23): But yeah, this, so this city... I mean, I've been here 30 years. I- I tell my wife it's just getting so... It- it's expensive as they would say oh, New York and California but we're- we're up there. You know, we're up there with the rents and all that. And I'm blessed to have a house that's paid for thanks to my parents but, uh... For any little inefficiency or whatever, it's like, costs like a couple of... It's like, incredible.

G1: R (01:03:40):

Uh, and I moved out. And my dad's rented- rented me a townhome for \$800 could have told him, it's crazy out here, man. Like, it's- it's- it's rough, like, and you know, I'm- I'm blessed to have it for that cheap but it goes back to what she said like it's- it's tough, like, you know, imagine I was to move out to somewhere else. I'd be paying \$1,000, \$2,000 just for one bedroom. You know I got a whole town home for myself. Well, I mean I split it with somebody but, still-

Participants expressed concern for voting rights and stressed the importance of voting, yet many admitted that they do not participate in local elections.

The rights of felons to vote was mentioned, as the state recently passed a constitutional amendment to allow felons to restore their voting rights.

G1: CC (01:04:56): 'Cause you got to choose who uh, your leaders are and you got to be, you know, you got to be in a place where you got to be in you know, accordance to what's going on.

G1: NV (01:05:46): I think it's important and I think everybody that is a citizen has a right to vote and have a say in the country they live in. Whether it goes their way or not, they should vote.

G1: NV (01:05:58): No, I feel like the only times it's been threatened is like, to the people who are felons, and all that stuff that don't get to, but which they should probably have a right too.

Immigration was rated as an important issue and it was expressed that nothing is being done to address this issue by either political party.

G1: CG (01:06:40): That's something that should have been uh, I think, addressed uh, a long time ago and not have- have gotten to how it is now, so much, you know, uh-

Moderator (01:06:49): Who should have addressed do you think?

G1: CG (01:06:51): Uh, the parties. Even though I'm- I- I don't want to say, regardless of what my political affiliation is, both parties, something should have been done before and not be at the point where- where we are uh, now.

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

G1: NM (01:29:47): I think they're both equally manipulating, um, in regards to Hispanic's in particular. Um, for whatever benefits them at that time whether its here or there. My nephew works at border, the BP, you know, he calls me when its slammed all the time, you know. So its not just what you see on the news, um, I just think they, you know, they get played. Its both sides so nothing happens.

G1: NM (01:37:05): And if you go back to Bush, Clinton, Obama, everyone of those guys said the same exact thing on immigration policy and there should be a right way to get in. Everyone. And what has changed? Nothing. So that's why I hate them both, I am, uh, that's my story.

Two of the 3 women participants rated abortion as very important (10), and the other rated it a one not important (1) because she is no longer of childbearing age.

One male who rated it as the most important issue expressed that he was pro-life, yet still believed that women have the right to make choices about their own bodies. Another male participant, who did not rate the issue as important, also argued that women should decide for themselves.

G1: J (01:08:05): Well, you know, uh, I have my opinions but also because of my faith and- and abortion was never meant for birth control to begin with, you know. I know, you know, there's situations where it's health, but that's been crazy, you know, what the money that's being drawn to that, you know. I know that women should have the right but that's just important for me.

Moderator (01:08:24): Okay, and over here, NV? You gave it a ten as well?

G1: NV (01:08:28): Mm-hmm (affirmative). I think the men should be able to decide to do what they want with their own bodies. The fact that even if it is health related, it's being banned, I think it's absurd. I don't think men should have a say as to women's bodies. Unless we can have a say on their bodies too. Which they can have vasectomies until their ready for kids, but-

Moderator (01:08:52): A, you just gave it a one. Can you explain a little bit?

G1: A (01:08:56): I mean, I know it's a hot topic right now, but I just, I'm not, um, following it that closely. So to me personally, especially at my age, um, I just put a one.

G1: CC (01:09:14): Um, I- I don't agree with abortion but I think the women should be able to allow whatever they want 'cause it's their body, you know. But I don't agree with it, you know. I would not pay for an abortion.

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

Only one participant rated climate change as being the most important issue to them, despite the increased number of hurricanes and the recent hurricane in Puerto Rico.

Six was the average ranking given to climate change by the rest of the group.

G1: R (01:09:42): Here in Miami we have been so blessed not getting hit by Hurricane Andrew temporarily and I feel like, unfortunately, it will happen one day. It's going to get worse. Um, I remember like, I was talking about it the other day with somebody. Like, it would get so cold growing up, and like, this is Miami, it never gets cold, but back then, back in the day for us, it was a lot colder than what it is now. Like, Christmas doesn't feel like Christmas because it's always hot. And I feel like throughout the years it's just getting worse and worse and worse.

Crime and public safety ranked high among this group.

Participants shared that armed security is important in decreasing crime, whether it be at schools, shopping centers, or places of worship. And one participant noted that mass shootings have happened under both Republican and Democratic administrations.

G1: NM (01:11:23): Yeah. That's the one that affects me most directly every day. Every place I go to in the city. At home, when I sleep at night.

G1: CC (01:11:33): Yeah, uh, I just want everybody to be safer for comp- company to follow protocol the shooting are happening because by law they're supposed to have armed security at every school. But the schools are bound and determine and their not following the contract. They- all shopping centers got to have armed security. It's part of Florida state law. That's why, that's why they're getting sued like crazy, but the state of Florida's not enforcing nothing. That's why everything is the way it is, because they're not enforcing the law.

G1: J (01:12:01): Ah, it's important. Even my congregation has armed security and a dog, you know. But it's important, it's- it's- it's important.

Moderator (01:12:09): Mm-hmm (affirmative). And is that armed security at- at like inside the church or outside the church?

G1: J (01:12:12): Inside the church and outside the church. Yeah. To make people safe.

G1: NV (01:33:39): I don't know, because right now it, I think its just gotten worse over time. I just think its people not necessarily the parties. That have anything to do with it.

G1: R (01:33:53): How are you going to see the change?

G1: A (01:33:53): Yeah. There was mass shootings, um, like both administrations.

G1: R (01:33:55): Both sides. For years.

G1: NV (01:33:55): Yeah I mean, I mean when Trump was in office that caused a lot of division and stuff within the communities, so.

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

Participants shared that racism is a major issue that still affects them.

They have personally experienced it. A few noted that racism is particularly rampant online.

Moderator (01:12:37): One thing we didn't list on here is um, racism. What are your thoughts on racism?

G1: NV (01:12:42): Still very much exists.

G1: R (01:12:50): It's uh, I- I've experienced racism. Um, personally, um, my family, like, I'm half Hispanic half black and um, I remember once uh, my mom was on Facebook. My mom posted her opinion on Trump getting elected. And this guy, and he, he obviously voted for Trump, whatever, I don't care what party you are. I respect it, I respect your opinion. But don't get disrespectful. And this guy said, "You know, all you uh, n-words are all stupid, this and this and that," and he said that to my mom, and I'm like "Yo, don't, I'm like, you're lucky I'm behind a computer right now because don't- don't speak that." Especially to my mom. And then, um, some guy, I used to work with, he uh, I got a job and I was helping him move some stuff from the truck to the store it was for- for a shoe store I used to work at and then I putting it in some way that think it was going to be a lot more beneficial to him, and he's like "Hey don't do that", and he called me the n-word. I'm like yo, I don't, I mean I don't know you like that bro don't call me that. And I don't know, I just think it's very, very disgusting. It's very real, you know, you see it everywhere.

Moderator (01:14:20): And where do you see it the most? Personally, where are you seeing it the most happening?

G1: NV (01:14:23): Online.

Moderator (01:14:25): Online?

G1: NV (01:14:27): I mean yeah, I don't go out that much but yeah. Online and it's not just white people against black people or white people against Hispanics. It's black people against white people and vice versa. It's- it's everywhere. Within- against everybody. Against Asians too.

G1: NM (01:14:45):

It's almost more prevalent online than it is in real life. You go out in real life, and I've got friends that are every color [crosstalk 01:14:50]-

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

Some participants hark back to a time when politics were less divisive.

They recollect a time when there was less polarization between the left and the right, and less hate was expressed.

G1: NM (00:09:41): Um, you know, just on the other side of this is the divisiveness going on in our country between right and left, and everybody. And I look back to the 70s, everybody was together, everybody was cool, everything was fine. And, you know, now everybody hates everybody. And everybody seems to be going to extremes. [crosstalk 00:09:59]

G1: J (00:10:40): And, or call you, you know, prejudiced, biased, or a bigot, you know, and-and it's not fair, you know. If you, if someone you... I think respect is still important. Like he said, generations before, there was more respect. I'm not saying that there is, there isn't today but if you, if you disagree with something, you know, uh, they wanna label you. Not everyone, but you have, you know, that agenda, too.

The Democratic Party is seen as divisive with communistic, socialist leanings. A participant noted that they do not agree with the party's position on banning guns, but qualified their position by saying they did not need an assault-style weapon to protect themselves. Biden is perceived as old and out of touch. One participant shared that they believed in the "deep state."

Moderator: So what are some of the things you wrote down for uh, Democratic Party? What are some of the things you all wrote down? Uh, G1: NM?

G1: NM (01:18:55): Uh, it's changed. It used to be the party that cares about people. For me, it's changed a whole lot. It's become the party that uh, is pushing divisiveness. And it's become evil in my opinion. And it is a threat from within.

G1: D (01:19:27): I put that they're very narrow-minded, one-sided, and too extremist.

Moderator (01:19:31): Okay, okay. And um, uh, is there anything specific that makes you feel they're extreme?

G1: D (01:19:36): Yes, um, one topic that hits me very hard, my, my personal is the, the gun ban. Okay. I've been actually forced to be a gun owner. And it's for my protection and my families protection. You know, I didn't get a gun to look cute. I got it because I specifically had someone stalk me. And I was forced because I am a single mother. And I have an elderly mother who lives with us. So I am the protector of my family. And if they take that right away from me then, you know, I just I don't...

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

Moderator (01:20:18): Now do you feel that way about all guns? Or just...

G1: D (01:20:20): Okay I don't need an AK, an AR I don't need one of those kind of guns. I don't need a riffle. I'm not here to, you know, go and defend the whole United States of America, but I am here to defend myself so putting a ban, a ban on guns for me and myself I wouldn't be very happy about that.

G1: A (01:20:40): I just feel that the current administration, I feel like he's too old, I'm sorry, Moderator (01:20:45): Okay. That's okay.

G1: A (01:20:45): I just feel he's too old, and I feel like he's losing his mind. And as a woman, yes, I'm happy that we have a female Vice President, but I feel she's lost. I feel like she has no clue what's going on. So I'm not happy with the current administration.

G1: J (01:21:12): Socialist, not all. Uh just too liberal but I can't generalize all. Things have changed, like G1: NM was saying from John F. Kennedy to General Carter, you know, helping, you know, and stuff that, that, not upsets me, but you know the hidden agenda.

Moderator (01:21:32): And when you say soci... oh hidden agenda, what do you mean?

G1: J (01:21:33): That there's people, I, I think there's a deep state, that's just my opinion you know?

G1: CC (01:23:31): Uh Democrat. Stuff that the new communist, the new communist community in the United States, leftist, they're very weak. Representative of Biden and its a party that is, you think they're helping you but in reality they're not helping you. They're making you like be weaker. So they can control you easier 'cause they want to disarm us, because that's the way communism starts. By disarming the citizens, so that's a communist party.

G1: D (01:27:58): Um. I just in general just think that the whole thing even the economy inflation. Yes it wasn't perfect, its never going to be perfect, but I think it was a lot better back then. I don't see any change with Biden.

The Republican Party brand is very much tied to Donald Trump.

This group sees him as the face of the Republican Party. Most view him positively because of the current downturn of the economy under the Biden administration. They believe the economy was better under President Donald Trump. It should be noted that aside from general negative descriptions of President Trump's personality, there was no mention of any specific policies or activities undertaken by him during his term in office.

G1: CC (01:24:11): Its a strong leadership, that was shown by Donald Trump, everything he mentioned in all the years became true. 100%. Everyday they show it on Instagram, uh he respects by his rights and for us. Uh less welfare, smaller government, fairer system, and he's draining the swamp saving the kids.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 1

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

Moderator (01:24:32): Okay. So do you think Donald Trump represents the Republican Party then?

G1: CC (01:24:38): Yes.

Moderator (01:24:38): You said that? Okay and do you think, um, life is better for you when he was a President?

G1: CC (01:24:43): Yes.

G1: R (01:25:19): Like, I have a lot of friends that would tell me the opposite of Trump like I [inaudible 01:25:25], screw Trump, you know, I don't like him, whatever this and that. But they would tell me like that he's just tryna turn things around especially for the economy. And I feel like personally for me he ran the country more as a businessman than opposed to a president.

Moderator (01:25:39): Okay.

G1: R (01:25:40): So

Moderator (01:25:40): And you think it was a good thing?

G1: R (01:25:42): Yes. Throughout the years.

Moderator (01:25:46): Okay. CG? What did you put down on your Republican card?

G1: CG (01:25:47): Uh that, I put Donald Trump but I don't, I didn't put that necessarily in a positive way

Moderator (01:25:51): Okay.

G1: CG (01:25:51): I, I think that regardless of it I think he still has a lot of control and flack, I mean he has a lot of control within the party.

G1: NV (01:27:07): Uh, I put Trump, guns, money and pro life.

G1: A (01:27:31): Uh, I like that they seem more family and God friendly. They seem to want unite, although it doesn't really happen, um and the economy was better.

G1: D (01:27:44): They're more open minded or helpful when it comes to our rights as citizens, I think that...

Moderator (01:27:50): What, what, is there any specific rights that you can think of specifically? I know you mentioned gun con, guns. But what else? Is there anything else besides guns?

G1: D (01:27:58): Um. I just in general just think that the whole thing even the economy inflation. Yes it wasn't perfect, its never going to be perfect, but I think it was a lot better back then. I don't see any change with Biden.

Moderator (01:33:14): G1: J what do you think? Republican tr, uh, economy? Or Trump?

G1: J (01:33:17): Trump.

Moderator (01:33:18): Is it Trump?

G1: J (01:33:19): Yeah.

Moderator (01:33:19): Mm-hmm (affirmative) What makes you say that?

G1: J (01:33:22): Things were better. Gas prices were definitely um, better.

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

The racist rhetoric of the Republican Party keeps one Democratic-leaning participant from viewing the republican party in a positive way, otherwise, they would feel more positive toward republicans.

The racism neutralizes their opinion.

Moderator (01:34:58): How many people have a positive view about the Republican Party? Raise your hand. You've got one, two, three, four, five? CG, you're uh, on the line?

G1: CG (01:35:09): So I could, I could some, I guess depends on you know, depends, I guess depends.

Moderator (01:35:13): Yeah. What's your struggle with? Depends on what, like?

G1: CG (01:35:18): No they're, like they're not, that there's not uh, it could be, you can have like policy difference but as long as you don't want to, and, and put racist stuff in it where you can get the same message across without. Uh You know, crossing like divisiveness and things like that.

When asked if the political parties are inviting to Hispanics, participants shared that Florida is unique, because of the many Hispanics that live there. A participant shared that Hispanics are already involved in the political parties, the Republican party in particular. Another felt that Hispanics are being manipulated by the political parties.

G1: CC (01:29:26): Well here it is because everyone's Hispanic but you know when you go to a Republican meeting. But if you go to Utah or you go to a Morman state, you're not really welcome because its a different state.

G1: J (01:29:37): But it's like. Remember, Florida is like a different country compared to other states.

G1: NM (01:29:47): I think they're both equally manipulating, um, in regards to Hispanic's in particular. Um, for whatever benefits them at that time whether it's here or there. My nephew works at border, the BP, you know, he calls me when it is slammed all the time, you know. So it's not just what you see on the news, um, I just think they, you know, they get played. It's both sides so nothing happens.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

FOCUS GROUP 2 PARTICIPANTS

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

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

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Female	52	Venezuela	None	G2: K
Female	19	Nicaragua	Unsure	G2: JA
Female	30	Colombia	None	G2: B
Female	29	Colombia	None	G2: JP
Male	34	Cuban	Unsure	G2: A
Female	49	Argentina	Independent	G2: V
Male	56	Cuba	Democrat	G2: JG
Female	40	Uruguay	None	G2: C

Key Findings: Group 2

SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

- Twitter is believed to be a trusted source of information because it is delivered directly by independent individuals who provide content without a filter and are delivering news from all over the world.
- There is a general distrust of the news media and especially news that appears on social media. Participants believe that there is an abundance of fake news on all media, and one participant stressed the need for people should be taught how to discern truth from fact because it is so prevalent. Another shared that they feel that different news channels deliver different versions of the same news stories, and the different versions are not always based on truth. They note that the journalists on Fox News are extremely biased toward Donald Trump, thus making them untrustworthy, but it doesn't keep them from watching.
- Several participants shared that they consume local news. One said that they watch it on YouTube and another shared that they only watch it every day on television, but primarily for the weather report. The local news station, Channel 7, was mentioned numerous times. The station shows up on the Facebook feed of one of the participants, on the Instagram feed of another, and is followed on Twitter by yet another.
- Google was identified as a trusted way to verify news stories, particularly breaking news stories. YouTube was also mentioned as a source for getting additional information, or where they go to watch the local news.
- The Miami Herald was described as a trusted source of information and several participants shared that they read the publication online or follow it on social media. No one in the group subscribes to receive a hard copy of the newspaper. Thus, they are likely only consuming headlines and may likely be blocked from reading the entire story by the publication's paywall.
- When asked whether they had greater trust in Spanish or English language news in the United States, several participants said they believed that Spanish language news is more exaggerated than English news. However, one participant said she trusted foreign news, specifically the Mexican news agencies, to provide accurate information about the border and said they accessed them on their social media pages.
- Most of the participants consume news from social media platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. They like the immediate nature of the platforms so they can be aware of news events as they are unfolding in real-time.
- When asked about the Worldstar HipHop, participants were aware of the platform and understood that people use it to go viral. It's not considered a news source or a credible way of getting news information.
- Some of the distrust in the media is due to the belief that all media are owned by 6 corporations globally. They believe that this conglomerate pushes a liberal agenda on its news channels.

Key Findings: Group 2

SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

- Several participants believe that good citizens should be informed about their community and participate in community service activities to help others.
- When asked about jury duty, one participant described it as being a voice in the community at large and important to stay engaged with the community around them.
- Several participants shared that they do not vote because they don't trust the elections. They think the voting machines are rigged and that the outcomes are pre-determined. They believe that their vote does not matter. One participant described local elections as a "little mafia." Only one participant, who identified as a Democrat, expressed having trust in the American voting system.
- Some participants shared that they don't vote because they don't feel they know enough about the election or candidates on the ballot. They specifically note the number of judges on the ballot and their lack of knowledge about each candidate.
- Several participants believe that the presidential election was stolen from Donald Trump. Many come from home countries where elections are not conducted fairly, so they are less trustworthy of the overall election and voting system.
- Participants shared that they would consider voting in a future election if there were better candidates running. They describe a better candidate as someone aggressive like Trump, though he was also described as reckless. They believe that Trump had his own money to run for office and believe that is a good thing because it makes him less beholden to special interests. Biden was described as weak and as suffering from dementia.
- Participants believe that good citizens can engage in protest, but it must be a peaceful protest.
- One participant shared that she was not taught about the importance of voting by their family, and they believe it's that lack of communication that has kept them from voting.

Key Findings: Group 2 Continued

SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

- The recent mass shootings have left several participants anxious and worried about the possibility of them or their family members being victims of gun violence. The randomness of the shootings makes them extremely uneasy.
- The economy, inflation, and rising costs were important for many in the group, and the economy was described as a broad term that encompasses everything. One participant shared that the strong economy of the U.S. was the reason they migrated to this country. Many share the belief that the U.S. is a place of economic opportunity. However, the rising cost of living and inflation was of concern as these are viewed as primarily hurting immigrant populations and low income.
- Healthcare was described as expensive but also critical to all aspects of life. Climate change was also described as critical to all aspects of life. These issues were considered important because, without them, nothing else matters.
- Several participants described the importance of the role of parents in children's education, but they believe that parents today are not properly teaching their children manners and discipline. One participant went so far as to describe children's behavior as animal-like, and due to lack of parental involvement. They suggest that parents are too busy on social media to pay attention to their children.
- This issue of abortion was not identified as the most important issue for any of the participants, but discussion of the issue revolved around abortion being a personal choice that should be decided by each person individually and that the government should not tell a woman what to do with her body.
- The discussion of racism was framed in the context of discrimination between Black and Hispanic communities, rather than Anglo and Hispanic. One participant shared that she is dating a Black man and that she feels the victim of racism by Black women.

Key Findings: Group 2 Continued

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

- Descriptions of the Democratic party were centered around helping those in need, though one participant criticized the party for helping too much and blame the bad economy on the Democratic Party leadership. The economy was described as better when the Republican party was in power.
- While the economy was perceived as being better under Republican Party leadership, social unrest was described as being more prominent. One participant suggested that the media was to blame for that. President Trump is not necessarily liked for his brash personality, but he is given credit for the U.S. having a good economy during his administration.
- One participant who identified as Democratic described Trump as a cult personality that is dangerous for democracy. They compared Trump to Fidel Castro. Another participant, American-born, talked about Trump fanatics and how their behaviors are not socially acceptable.
- The Republican party is viewed as the party of law and order and represents more traditional values, like God and family. These are seen as positive attributes, though the Party's stance on abortion is seen as not progressive enough for modern times.
- One nationalized Cuban participant outlined each of the policies that Democratic Presidents have done that have helped the people of Cuba, and he had a positive view of the Democratic Party as a result of those implemented policies.
- On immigration, one participant shared that they do not support the Democratic Party's position. They believe that immigration should be better controlled and that those wanting to immigrate should go through the process. They support the wall because it keeps people from circumventing the process.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Twitter is believed to be a trusted source of information because it is delivered directly by independent individuals who provide content without a filter and are delivering news from all over the world.

Moderator (00:13:27): Where do you go to learn about what's happening in the community? Where are some of the places you're getting information from? Where are you getting your information?

G2: C (00:13:43): Twitter.

G2:K(00:13:44): It's where I think is the best, one of the best sources because you get... I would say Twitter. No TikTok, or no Facebook.No because, for me, because I get, I can get information that I get from the source and you get information from all over the world.

Moderator (00:14:13): Okay. And what makes Twitter better, you think?

G2:K(00:14:15): Because you get information directly from the people. So if you want to, you know, you have people in Canada, Australia, and they can share whatever they're going through.

G2: A (00:27:18): Twitter's like, uh, I think, uh, more, n- I don't know if it's accurate, but it's like more like independent I guess?

There is a general distrust of the news media and especially news that appears on social media.

Participants believe that there is an abundance of fake news on all media, and one participant stressed the need for people should be taught how to discern truth from fact because it is so prevalent. Another shared that they feel that different news channels deliver different versions of the same news stories, and the different versions are not always based on truth. They note that the journalists on Fox News are extremely biased toward Donald Trump, thus making them untrustworthy, but it doesn't keep them from watching.

Moderator (00:15:39): Where are you getting your information from?

G2: JA (00:15:44): I feel like social media in general, like, there's something I feel like personally that needs to be taught in school is that when you're going through social media and the news, you need to pick apart where the sources are true.

Moderator (00:16:22): Do you trust social media?

G2: JA (00:16:23): No.

Moderator (00:16:59): Do you trust the local news more than the national news?

G2: JA (00:17:04): I don't trust one more than the other. I don't really like, have a particular trust towards news because you don't really like, know all of the facts like yourself. And even though they're telling you, you don't, you can't ever know for sure. So, there's not really like, a full trust with that.

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

G2: JG (00:18:19): And uh, that's uh, again with these uh, polarization, I mean, watch CNN, you have one version of what's going on here in the US now, then you watch Fox News, you have completely different version of what's going on. I mean, you, you are kind of confused. Where is the truth? Nowadays, I think that's the, the question. Just like, I've heard for example, if you are entitled to your own opinions, but you're not entitled to your own facts, but sometimes even the facts are challenge (laughs), and you, I don't really know this to be 100 percent true.

G2: JG (00:20:08): And uh, Fox News have uh, a couple of uh, anchor men or women who are Trump fanatics.

G2: A (00:21:11): Yeah, okay, CBS News, okay. So it's like a mixture like, Fox News, um, I know it has like, that Trump, you know, kind of vibe (laughs), the Fox news.

Several participants shared that they consume local news. One said that they watch it on YouTube and another shared that they only watch it every day on television, but primarily for the weather report.

The local news station, Channel 7, was mentioned numerous times. The station shows up on the Facebook feed of one of the participants, on the Instagram feed of another, and is followed on Twitter by yet another.

Moderator (00:16:45): Do you watch local news versus cable, versus network news? Which one do you prefer?

G2: JA (00:16:50): Uh, local, you know, you watch it on YouTube, or, you know, things like that.

Moderator (00:16:55): Oh, so you watch the local news on YouTube?

G2: JA (00:16:57): Yeah.

Moderator (00:21:52): What about you G2: JP? Where are you getting your news from?

G2: JP (00:21:52): Channel 7 news.

Moderator (00:21:55): Do you watch it on TV-

G2: JP (00:21:56): Mm-hmm, in the morning.

Moderator (00:21:56): ... or do you watch it on your phone? You watch it in the morning?

G2: JP (00:21:58): Yeah, when I'm getting ready.

Moderator (00:22:01): What makes that one more trustworthy to you than others?

G2: JP (00:22:03): None, I just check it for the weather.

G2: B (00:22:32): Eh, I look at, you know, the news Telemundo, Channel 7, yeah I watch, you know, I watch it sometimes too during the day, you know. Just to be update, you know, what's going on.

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

Moderator (00:22:41): A lot of people said Channel 7, like, in the other groups that I did, channel seven kept coming up as well. Is there something special about it?

G2: B (00:22:47): Channel, well my, in my Facebook it pops up a lot.

G2: V (00:22:54): I follow that channel [Channel 7] on Instagram.

G2: A (00:28:17): So, yeah, apparently I follow Channel 7. So, Channel 7-

Moderator (00:28:20): Okay, you follow Channel 7 on Twitter?

G2: A (00:28:23): Yes, I do.

Google was identified as a trusted way to verify news stories, particularly breaking news stories.

YouTube was also mentioned as a source for getting additional information, or where they go to watch the local news.

Moderator (00:17:22): Okay. And so when, and when you come across a story on social media that you know, you don't really trust, or you're not, you're gonna check to see if it's correct, what do you, what do you do? What do you-

G2: JA (00:17:31): I go on like Safari or Google and I look a little bit more into it, and like, let's say I search up a particular topic, and I'll go in a couple links and read, and see like, what matches up with what, and see how it

Moderator (00:20:43): But do you watch local news or CNN? You don't really watch local news?

G2: A (00:20:47): Not really. I mean, if there's something like a shooting you know, uh, so many people are dead, and like, I can confirm that, you know. If there's, there's Google.

The Miami Herald was described as a trusted source of information and several participants shared that they read the publication online or follow it on social media.

No one in the group subscribes to receive a hard copy of the newspaper. Thus, they are likely only consuming headlines and may likely be blocked from reading the entire story by the publication's paywall.

G2: B (00:22:58): Yeah, Miami Herald.

Moderator (00:22:59): Okay. Do you follow Miami Herald?

G2: B (00:23:01): Yeah, on Instagram. Mm-hmm.

Moderator (00:23:04): And that, you get. What about on Facebook? Do you follow it on Facebook?

G2: B (00:23:06): On Facebook, no. Miami Herald, no. But on Instagram, yeah.

Moderator (00:23:08): On Instagram you do?

G2: B (00:23:09): Yeah, so I want you to know sometimes, I like being, you know, updated on what's going on.

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

Moderator (00:23:13): Does anybody get the Miami Herald or newspaper like in paper form?

G2:K(00:23:17): Mm-mm. (negative)

G2: JG (00:23:17): No.

G2: JP (00:23:17): No.

When asked whether they had greater trust in Spanish or English language news in the United States, several participants said they believed that Spanish language news is more exaggerated than English news.

However, one participant said she trusted foreign news, specifically the Mexican news agencies, to provide accurate information about the border and said they accessed them on their social media pages.

Moderator (00:23:57):. Do you trust Spanish television better than English television news?

G2: A (00:24:05): No.

Moderator (00:24:06): Which one do you trust better?

G2: A (00:24:07): I think Spanish is more exaggerated.

G2: B (00:26:43): And I will follow a lot of those pages to see, you know, what's really going on, so I could be updated. And you know. The Mexican and, you know, news, you know, will say, you know, what's really, you know, happening.

Most of the participants consume news from social media platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

They like the immediate nature of the platforms so they can be aware of news events as they are unfolding in real-time.

Moderator (00:25:04): How much of the news do you get comes from social media? Like, when I say social media, I mean Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok... Um, how much of that news comes from there versus television, watching TV? What would you say?

G2:K(00:25:26): For me, zero TV.

G2: A (00:25:32): Zero TV.

G2: V (00:25:32): I watch TV when I arrive home.

G2: JA (00:25:32): Zero.

G2: JG (00:25:32): Oh, I watch Facebook a lot.

G2: V (00:25:41): But if, for example, on Instagram you receive the, the news at the moment. Like, today something happened in my, in Broward College. And-

G2: JA (00:25:45): Oh, yeah, yeah. Okay, [inaudible 00:25:46]-

G2: V (00:25:45): Yes, I receive the, uh, (up to) date from Instagram.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

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

When asked about the Worldstar HipHop, participants were aware of the platform and understood that people use it to go viral. It's not considered a news source or a credible way of getting news information.

G2: A (00:29:21): People do it, I think people do messed up things just to get on that, you know? And like, "Yeah, we'll do it for Worldstar," whatever it is.

G2: JP (00:29:27): Yeah, 'cause you g- uh-

G2: JP (00:29:28): 'Cause, and then you'll check.

G2: A (00:29:29): Yeah.

G2: JA (00:29:30): You're, you're, you're h- uh, sorry, can't talk. You'll hear kids, like, they'll start videoing the fight. And like, "Oh, we're gonna get on Worldstar," and like literally what he said.

G2: A (00:29:37): Yeah.

G2: JA (00:29:37): And it's just like, why are you in that mindset? That's not good.

Moderator (00:29:39): It's like a status or a trend.

G2: JA (00:29:40): Yeah.

G2: A (00:29:40): Like they're trying to go viral.

Some of the distrust in the media is due to the belief that all media are owned by 6 corporations globally.

They believe that this conglomerate pushes a liberal agenda on its news channels.

G2: A (01:23:16): I don't know, but, uh, it seems like certain, like, uh... I remember, like, uh, watching, like, Comedy Central, I mean, everybody watch CNN Live, you know? I feel like, um, they push, like, Democratic only. How do you say, um...?

Moderator (01:23:31): Views?

G2: A (01:23:32): The views, exactly.

G2:K(01:23:33): .Well, the, the media, the whole media is owned by six corporations.

G2: A (01:23:37): Right. [Inaudible 01:23:37].

G2:K(01:23:37): Worldwide.

G2: A (01:23:37): Like, [inaudible 01:23:37]-

G2:K(01:23:37): And they will have the same values.

G2: A (01:23:41): Right. Yeah, yeah. Viacom is one of the big ones... Um... And I feel like they, I just, you know, they're always bashing, like, like... Well, I don't want to get into it (laughs).

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

Several participants believe that good citizens should be informed about their community and participate in community service activities to help others.

Moderator (00:30:05): What does it mean to be a good citizen. What does that mean to you?

G2:K (00:30:12): I think u- to inform. Being... Yeah, because if you're inform on, yeah, source of information, you can participate there and-

Moderator (00:30:22): Participate better in?

G2:K (00:30:24): Eh, whatever issues there are. In a society, there are issues. But, If you don't know what's going on, how are you gonna express.

G2: JP (00:30:44):

Like, volunteer work, helping out in the community. D- you know? You have leftovers one day, or you just wanna feed the homeless, something nice I think.

G2: JA (00:30:53): I was gonna say something similar to that. You know, you're helping out your communities, you know, much as you can. And, um, I think, like re- like with what she was s- saying, like about being informed. Like, don't be ignorant to the things that are around you. Like try to learn, and, um, be informed, and things like that.

When asked about jury duty, one participant described it as being a voice in the community at large and important to stay engaged with the community around them.

Moderator (00:32:18): What about jury duty? Does a good citizen do jury duty?

G2: JA (00:32:29): I think it's really important. 'Cause, um, you're kinda hearing from your community when you're doing jury duty, and you're kinda... You're putting your voice in your community. Like you're not just sitting there no- and just watching it happen. You're putting your voice in.

Several participants shared that they do not vote because they don't trust the elections. They think the voting machines are rigged and that the outcomes are predetermined.

They believe that their vote does not matter. One participant described local elections as a "little mafia." Only one participant, who identified as a Democrat, expressed having trust in the American voting system.

G2: C (00:33:50): Es que me parece que todo esta organizado. Como que uno vota pero no sabe si en realidad eso votos van para la persona...no sé, como que [To me it appears to be all predetermined. Like you vote but you don't know if in reality, those votes go to that person...I don't know, it's like...]

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

G2:K (00:34:42): *I can tell you about it. Because the same company, the same machines, the same software was created. Fortunately, in Venezuela-*

G2: JG (00:34:48): *That's not a fact.*

G2:K (00:34:50): *But, okay. But I'm telling you what I'm seeing because-*

G2: JG (00:34:53): *We were told that, but that's not a fact.*

G2:K (00:34:57): *Let me finish. Um, so it happened exactly in the same way and fashion. So we actually, we were like... We s- it was an exact copy of what happened in Venezuela for 20 years.*

G2: B (00:35:15): *I think money. When you wan- when somebody has a lot of money, you know, you have power, you know, to, to talk you know to you- wh- who they need to talk to, you know? And I don't know, maybe they m- there was money involved. The... I don't know.*

Moderator (00:35:33): *Do you think-*

G2: B (00:35:33): *That's why I don't vote. I don't vote.*

Moderator (00:35:34): *Because why? Because you feel like this?*

G2: B (00:35:36): *I don't know. I, I just don't trust it.*

Moderator (00:35:38): *You don't trust the voting system?*

G2: B (00:35:39): *No.*

G2: JP (00:36:49): *No, At all? I don't feel like my vote matters.*

Moderator (00:36:51): *Mm-hmm.*

G2: JP (00:36:52): *Whoever wins, wins.*

Moderator (00:36:53): *Mm-hmm.*

G2: JP (00:36:54): *At the end of the day, I feel like they're still gonna do whatever they want. They're gonna promote something, but it's not gonna always be 100. You know?*

G2: V (00:45:11): *In other local thing, I think it's this... In Miami, it's like, um, two running. Like a, it's like a little mafia, like in my country. So-*

G2: A (00:45:21): *For real.*

G2: V (00:45:22): *I am not, uh, trusting the voting, uh, local.*

G2: JG (00:57:03): *But I don't think there is such a level of corruption here in the US. At least I believe maybe tomorrow I'll, I'll, I'll get disappointed in everything. But, uh, now after six years living here I trust the uh, the electoral system.*

Some participants shared that they don't vote because they don't feel they know enough about the election or candidates on the ballot.

They specifically note the number of judges on the ballot and their lack of knowledge about each candidate.

Moderator (00:40:37): *Yeah. But do you vote in local elections? You've never voted in anything-*

G2: JA (00:40:40): *No.*

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

Moderator (00:40:40): *And why is it? Why do you not vote in local elections?*

G2: JA (00:40:43): *I- I feel I don't know like a lot of things. Likel feel like you need a, you don't need to know everything. I mean, you should, but they don't, they don't teach you certain things. And, and sometimes you kind of, kinda have to figure it out for yourself. So I'm, you know, still in the process of learning how to do that.*

Moderator (00:40:57): *Okay. So you don't feel like you have enough information, do you?*

G2: JA (00:41:00): *Yeah, I don't feel confident to do that. Yeah.*

G2: A (00:41:01): *I, I kind of agree with that because when you're gonna vote for the president, I mean, I know, uh... I haven't done it, but I know more or less... Okay, you might decide, you know, this president or that, but then they ask you all these sub, like, categories, like-*

G2: JA (00:41:14): *'Cause that person... The, the way that I've been explained to is a per- you pick that person, that person picks the president for you, kind of, in a sense.*

G2: A (00:41:20): *Right. Okay, yeah, yeah, yeah.*

G2: JA (00:41:21): *Something like that.*

G2: A (00:41:23): *Right, right, right. Exactly. So then they want you to pick a certain judge, and you're like, wait a minute. Uh, I don't even know the difference between this judge and the other, like.*

G2: A (00:44:40): *Oh, no. I was just agreeing with her, because like then you're just kinda answering randomly. 'Cause, I mean, I'm sure there's some people that know every single person on that ballot, but there's a lot of people who don't know the majority of those people.*

G2:K (00:44:52): *And you don't know what they stand for.*

G2: JA (00:44:52): *Yeah.*

Moderator (00:47:16): *And decide you wanna register to vote. Is there anything?*

G2: JP (00:47:18): *I think if I was more involved in watching what's going on, I'd have more of an opinion.*

Several participants believe that the presidential election was stolen from Donald Trump.

Many come from home countries where elections are not conducted fairly, so they are less trustworthy of the overall election and voting system.

G2: A (00:37:10): *Like, does anybody believe that Trump was, uh, actually robbed of the election, or?*

G2:K(00:37:17): *I do.*

G2: A (00:37:17): *I, I think it's possible.*

G2: JP (00:37:17): *Of course.*

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

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

Participants shared that they would consider voting in a future election if there were better candidates running.

They describe a better candidate as someone aggressive like Trump, though he was also described as reckless. They believe that Trump had his own money to run for office and believe that is a good thing because it makes him less beholden to special interests. Biden was described as weak and as suffering from dementia.

Moderator (00:48:13): Okay. What about you, G2: A? Has, uh, have you ever been asked to register to vote?

G2: A (00:48:16): Oh, yeah. Numerous times.

Moderator (00:48:17): What do you say?

G2: A (00:48:18): No. (laughs) But I, I think, um, when I see better candidates I'll consider voting, so.

Moderator (00:48:26): What's a better candidate to you? What is that like? What does a better candidate look like?

G2: A (00:48:28): Like part of me liked Trump. You know, part of me.

Moderator (00:48:32): What part did you like?

G2: A (00:48:35): Like that he could probably have like stood up for us. You know what I mean? Like I remember in one-

Moderator (00:48:38): Us? Who's us? Uh-

G2: A (00:48:39): America.

Moderator (00:48:39): America? Okay.

G2: A (00:48:40): 'Merica.

G2: A (00:48:43): I remember he like, he went to like, I don't know what it was, but it was like these world leaders. And he just freaking threw himself in front of everybody. An- and I know that seems rude, but I liked that. Because we can, we've been bulled around for the last 10, 20, 15 years. You know?

G2: A (00:49:03): But then he's like, he's so reckless. You know? And the way he talks- And, and then they raided the Capitol. And I thought that was so disgraceful, in my opinion. You know, and, uh- And then Biden's obviously not well. He's like demented. He's like obviously, someone's talking to him, like in the ear phone. He's not saying what he's saying, right? (laughs) He's obviously not. I don't know if you guys have been paying attention, but... Um, so it's terrible candidates in my opinion.

Moderator (00:49:27): What, what would be a good candidate in your mind? Can you think of a better candidate? Like, where you would be like, "Man, that's the kind of candidate that would make me go vote."

G2: A (00:49:35): Definitely somebody who's not, um, influenced by, um, like big companies and big money. Because a lot of these, um, candidates, um, they, um, they say so and so, and they do such things, just because you know, somebody is backing them up with millions and millions of dollars. So- There's a lot of pressure to do, you know, th- you know, something that they might n- might not even agree with, uh, morally. They just do it because they're being pressure by big money. And that happens all the time. With governors, with senates, with mayors, with everybody. And then Trump was like kinda like, well he's got his own money, so maybe he's making his own decisions. But, then he's kinda reckless and then, people start getting all, kinda like, I don't know, you know the Trump [inaudible 00:50:23], you know, and it's talk about crazy and then it's just, it's uh, people start fighting with each other, we don't need that divide in this country, you know, we really don't. So, I mean I, I just don't see, you know, good candidates right now, I think that's the point of what I'm trying to say.

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

Participants believe that good citizens can engage in protest, but it must be a peaceful protest.

Moderator (00:51:04): Uh, I wanna go back to a little bit about talking about what good citizens do and don't do. Um, do you think good citizens, um, participate in protests?

G2:K (00:51:16): Yes.

G2: B (00:51:16): Yes.

G2: JG (00:51:16): I think so.

G2: JA (00:51:16): Yes.

G2: V (00:51:18): Mm-hmm (affirmative).

G2: JP (00:51:19): I don't know.

Moderator (00:51:19): G2: JP you don't know?

G2: JP (00:51:19): Mm-hmm (negative).

G2: JG (00:51:24): Peaceful protest.

Moderator (00:51:25): Peaceful protests.

G2: JG (00:51:25): Peaceful protests always.

G2:K(00:51:25): Peaceful.

G2: JA (00:51:36): Way they teach it like, you know, they teach it, the way they teach it at school and then a lot of the social media today it's, you know that it's, you know, it's really depends. I do agree that it's your right as a citizen to exercise a peaceful protest, and I have a very close friend of mine does that all the time, and I'm really proud of her. But she's really putting her voice out there for what she wants in her life, and what she wants to fight for. And, I mean, I think, uh yeah, you know I, I, to answer your question, I do agree that like, uh, as a citizen it's, it's good to exercise that right to protest.

One participant shared that she was not taught about the importance of voting by their family, and they believe it's that lack of communication that has kept them from voting.

G2: JA (00:39:36): So I am, in my opinion, I think voting is really important, but it also depends on like your education in, in a way. Like, the way your parents talk to you about voting and in school. Because if you don't talk about it in school and like you don't really realize how important it is. 'Cause I... In my family, my mom and, and my parents, you know, my abuela, and all these people, they've never really talked to me in- I- of voting as an important thing. But over the years, I've noticed that it, it is becoming more and more important because of the things that are happening. Like-

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 2

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

The recent mass shootings have left several participants anxious and worried about the possibility of them or their family members being victims of gun violence.

The randomness of the shootings makes them extremely uneasy.

G2: A (00:08:11): I mean, what's been really driving me crazy is all the shootings, man. Like, it's just like on my mind all the time. Like, the other day I was at the super market, and I was like, "What if it happens right now?" It's like brutal.

G2: V (00:08:38): Um, I feel so sad about all that happened in Uvalde uh, last week, about the, the guns because everybody talks about the second, eh, Bill, eh. But when they wrote that, they had to use the gun. Not that kind of gun that we have right now, to take care of their family, to, for animals, for. You know?

G2: JA (00:09:08): I think it's very scary. Like I'm, I'm probably the youngest person here, and it just agh, uh, and my siblings, my younger siblings um, I pretty much helped my mom raise them and it's kinda scary to like, have to send them to school and it's like, what's gonna happen? So, I mean, for me, that gets to me emotional because I'm like you know?

G2: JA (01:16:12):

Well, you know, with everything that's going on with the school shootings and things like that, like, not only do I have to worry for my siblings cause, like, I'm their parent too, and, and I worry, like, I don't want to send them to school and that happens. And I'm also going to college too, so what if I'm just going to class and that happens? And it's scary, and then... You know, you talk how you're about San Antonio, and that's... My sister's near that shooting and it scares me, like... I was telling my sister, I was like, "Thank God that you don't go to the store," like, "Thank God you pick up your groceries, because I can't imagine, if you go in there, that'll just..."

The economy, inflation, and rising costs were important for many in the group, and the economy was described as a broad term that encompasses everything.

One participant shared that the strong economy of the U.S. was the reason they migrated to this country. Many share the belief that the U.S. is a place of economic opportunity. However, the rising cost of living and inflation was of concern as these are viewed as primarily hurting immigrant populations and low income.

Moderator (01:01:15): When you say economy, what does that mean?

G2: JG (01:01:21): Macro-economy, the economy in general, it includes inflation and costs, everything, I mean. Economy has to do with everything in a way.

Moderator (01:01:35): Okay, okay, and that's real important to you right now?

G2: JG (01:01:36): Yep.

G2: V (01:01:49):

Because if you work here, you, you can get it very good life compared with my country. In my country you can study and work your whole life and you never go to vacations, or that kind of stuff.

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

G2:K(01:02:46): Purchasing power has decreased significantly, and if it keeps going it's gonna just get worse. So, if that's where being impoverishing everyone. And, course the most effected is gonna be immigrant class, lower class.

G2: JA (01:03:23): I mean it, like she was just saying like, it's, it's getting harder and harder to live, and to live off the income that you're making and it's ridiculous. And I've noticed in learning a lot too, like, you go to a store and purchase certain things and, um, you don't notice it. But they make packaging smaller, and you're paying a higher price-

G2: B (01:05:35): I think it's important, um, you know, there's a lot of immigrants that are coming in, in you know, situations that are happening and you know, in their countries. And I believe that you know, I, I, that they deserve, you know, a chance to work, 'cause right now there's so many places here that are hiring. But most of the places, you either have to have papers, and the people that really do come in that wanna work, can't work because they don't have papers. And the people that are born here, they don't wanna work. You know, so I think it's important you in the immigration situation that's going on, that you know they should be given an opportunity. Because they do come here, you know, to better their lives over here you know. Right now, everything you know, has gotten up, but over here if you, if you wanna make it and you know, you wanna a good future, you have that chance, you know.

Healthcare was described as expensive but also critical to all aspects of life.

Climate change was also described as critical to all aspects of life. These issues were considered important because, without them, nothing else matters.

G2: B (01:07:26): I put 10 because, uh, my Dad passed away about three years ago because of cancer. And, um, everything, chemo, radiation, the medication, everything's expensive, you know. Eh, and I think you know, it im-, it's important that, you know, the health care, you know, you know, we're lucky that we get you know good on insurances because now we cannot afford it, you know, if you're sick. People might have cancer and you gotta take medication, or radiation, chemo-

G2: A (01:07:58): Super expensive.

G2: B (01:07:59): ... And I think you know, it's important, you know, it's something important. 'Cause if we don't have health we can't do nothing. Health is the first thing.

Moderator (01:11:46): You put a star on climate change, G2: JP, tell me what is it about climate change?

G2: JP (01:11:52): Um, I just love that like whole science weather field, that's why I talk about watching the weather. I don't know I just always liked it. I'm like really interested in it.

Moderator (01:12:03): It's important to you, because I mean-

G2: JP (01:12:07): Yeah, yeah. It's all around, it's everything, it's the world.

G2: A (01:12:11): Yeah.

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

G2: JP (01:12:11): You know, if you don't, if we don't pay attention to what's going on I mean, what does everything else matter? Yeah, if we don't realize what's going on in the world then coronavirus, economy, none of that matters, we're not gonna be here. So, you know, I think it's important to just pay attention and be more mindful and just take care of what we have.

Several participants described the importance of the role of parents in children's education, but they believe that parents today are not properly teaching their children manners and discipline.

One participant went so far as to describe children's behavior as animal-like, and due to lack of parental involvement. They suggest that parents are too busy on social media to pay attention to their children.

Moderator (01:08:13): You? Okay G2: C, why is education so important to you?

G2: C (01:08:21): Velvo a lo mismo de que, o sea, es importante la educacion que empieza en la casa. Y me parece que, como que falta un poco eso. Que los padres estan como dejando los hijos...a mi me parece./I go back to the same thing, that it is important that education starts at home. I think that is missing a bit. That parents are leaving their children...that's what I think.

G2: JA (01:08:30): I agree with that, my, my parents really wanted like-

G2: V (01:08:33): I see that everyday.

G2: JA (01:08:35): ... they don't want me growing up, and my parents didn't really inform me about things that I feel like I should have been informed on. So I feel like a little bit, not mean, I wasn't really guided on that as much as I should have been. On certain things.

G2: V (01:08:50): I see that some kids are like animals if they don't have education, when you see the kids eating at the cafeteria, you can see what kind of way they take the food at home. That kind of stuff, they, you know, the basics. They don't have the basics.

G2: JA (01:09:10): Like discipline?

G2: V (01:09:10): Discipline, um-

G2: A (01:09:12): Manners.

G2: V (01:09:13): Manners, exactly. When my son start here in kindergarten, the teacher told me when he is in third grade you must find a magnet school, because he's a really good artist. And I said, "Wow." I don't think he's a really good artist, because I am art teacher, so I see the drawing is normal, for me. But when I start working at pre-K, kindergarten I see kids that they are not allowed to take a pen and they feel like, wait maybe my son is not really good enough but compared to the rest of the animals, he's really good 'cause he knows how to take, you know... The parents here they stay more, um, the attend the social media and everything, and nobody's teaching nothing.

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

This issue of abortion was not identified as the most important issue for any of the participants, but discussion of the issue revolved around abortion being a personal choice that should be decided by each person individually and that the government should not tell a woman what to do with her body.

G2: C (01:10:28): Yo puse uno, o sea, pero en realidad...claro, en realidad me parece...o sea...es importante pero es el decisión de cada uno.[I put a one, but in reality, of course, in reality for me, it's... it's important but it is the decision of each individual.]

Moderator (01:10:32): Si. Yeah.

G2: JG (01:10:36): Yeah, that's what, what's under discussion the right to have an abortion or not. Or, that's what we are, that's what's under discussion nowadays right you know, I mean it's a good discussion.

G2: JA (01:10:43): It's scary that, it might be taken away, you know that Roe vs. Wade is overturned and not be able to do that.

Moderator (01:10:43): What was that A?

G2: A (01:10:56): I just think it's hypocritical that you can like let's say go to a bar and drink yourself to death, and they serve you alcohol and they tax you on it, and they take all our money. But, you can't do what you want with your body, I don't know, that's what I think.

The discussion of racism was framed in the context of discrimination between Black and Hispanic communities, rather than Anglo and Hispanic. One participant shared that she is dating a Black man and that she feels the victim of racism by Black women.

Moderator (01:17:09): G2: JP, you think racism is a big issue right now?

G2: JP (01:17:12): My boyfriend's black. They look at me crazy. They don't look at him crazy, they look at me crazy. Like, I-I'm the one who constantly gets stared at. I'm like, "Why am I getting so stared at?" Yeah. But, by the black women. Yeah. The black women look at me like I'm taking their property.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

Descriptions of the Democratic party were centered around helping those in need, though one participant criticized the party for helping too much and blame the bad economy on the Democratic Party leadership.

The economy was described as better when the Republican party was in power.

Moderator (01:22:40): Okay. G2: B, what did you write under Democrat?

G2: B (01:22:45): Uh, that they help more, um, people that are in need.

Moderator (01:23:01): No problem. A, what did you write?

G2: A (01:23:02): I put, uh, "Help the poor."

Moderator (01:23:04): Help the poor? Okay.

G2: A (01:23:06): Maybe, too much sometimes.

G2: A (01:23:56): And, and, uh, I wrote there, "I feel like they're losing the, the people's trust."

Moderator (01:23:59): Okay.

G2: A (01:23:59): I feel like they're, like, a dying, um...

Moderator (01:24:00): Are they doing something in particular, to lose people's trust? Or, you just, uh...

G2: A (01:24:07): I mean, it's just like false, uh, promises, you know? It's just like, "Oh, we're better." You know, you know, "Trump is... Oh, he's so mad..." You know, he's not well spoken and all this stuff, but look at, look at the economy right now, man, look at what's going on right now, man. That's like... There's no money... I mean, I, when I, when the Republican party was in charge, there was more money in my pocket, I'll tell you that (laughs).

While the economy was perceived as being better under Republican Party leadership, social unrest was described as being more prominent.

One participant suggested that the media was to blame for that. President Trump is not necessarily liked for his brash personality, but he is given credit for the U.S. having a good economy during his administration.

Moderator (01:24:48): ... the economy was better under the Republicans than with the Democrats?

G2: A (01:24:51): Uh, uh, the economy, yes, but I think, um, maybe like, the division was a little bit more. Like, I don't know for some, for some reason, people were just fighting in the streets. Um...

G2:K(01:25:01): But I think that was instigated by the media, big time.

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

G2: JA (01:25:12): I-I think a lot more that I've been, you know, learning as I'm growing, you cannot like a person for their personality, but if they're helping you... You know, like, you know, I personally, like, don't like Trump's character, but he did, uh... We did have a good economy, with him as our president, you know?

G2:K(01:34:44): No, I don't think it's, is the thing... I-I don't like his (Trump) personality, I love his policies. Totally different thing. So, I don't like his personality, I think, you know, you know... Yeah, I might, I don't agree with many, you know, maybe his tone of voice here and there. I don't care about that. I don't want to marry the guy, I just need the policies that are going to-

Moderator (01:35:03): And what, what policies specifically [inaudible 01:35:04]?

G2:K(01:35:06): Uh, putting American first. I think that's- There was a, um, you know, taking care of, uh, who enters the country-

One participant who identified as Democratic described Trump as a cult personality that is dangerous for democracy. They compared Trump to Fidel Castro.

Another participant, American-born, talked about Trump fanatics and how their behaviors are not socially acceptable.

G2: JG (01:33:55): ... I-I believe, uh, the, the Republican party has become, uh, in general... I mean, most Republican, uh, leaders, uh, are tr-tr... Uh, I mean, the party has become the party of Trump. That's what I... I mean, th-there is a call to, for p-personality right now, which is big, and it's very dangerous for this country. I mean, I come from a coun- from a country where, there was a great cult personality, right? Fidel Castro was seen as, as a god. And I see the same thing going on here in America.

G2: A (01:35:55): ... I think that your opinions are all valuable. Um, I think, um, when, uh, when people go out of hand with, uh, "Oh my God, Trump!" And they go crazy and they become fanatics, and they become openly racist all of a sudden, some people do, I'm not saying everybody does, some people do. I-I'm sorry, I, I just-

G2: JA (01:36:11): I'm sorry, no, when people do that, it's like, it's disgusting to me, to behave that way-

G2: A (01:36:17): There has been people like that. I mean, there's, you'd be blind not to see that. I mean, I'm not saying everybody's like that. I would vote... I mean, I would've probably voted for Trump, but, um, I wouldn't go so crazy like that, you know, and like fight people in the supermarket because you're wearing a Biden shirt, or something. But, um, I think it's more of, of a reflection of the American people, that you, they're already racist. And now, you know, they just felt, like, that power, like somebody's behind, like, um, "Supporting my racist views. And now I'm going to be openly racist." It's, it's already in the people. It's not the, it's not who's in the podium, it's, it's already in us. So... Or, or not us, but you know what...And, and cer-certain parts of the country, or whatever.

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

The Republican party is viewed as the party of law and order and represents more traditional values, like God and family.

These are seen as positive attributes, though the Party's stance on abortion is seen as not progressive enough for modern times.

Moderator (01:26:59): V, what did you put under Republican?

G2: V (01:27:01): Only, "More control." More, more control, more strict, more... Uh, you know, following the rules.

Moderator (01:27:08): Okay. Okay. A, what did you put under Republican?

G2: A (01:27:11): I wrote, uh, "Traditional values." Like, traditional. Like, it's kind of like, you know, uh...

Moderator (01:27:17): What does that mean, traditional? Like...

G2: A (01:27:19): Well, I could be wrong, but I've heard that word turn around, but I think it's like, you know, like, kind of like, old fashioned, like, uh...putting, like, God into the... You know, into the into the mix, you know? Kind of like, "Let's sit at the table as a family." Kind of, traditional values. You know what I mean. I think they're good for economy, but they could be too old fashioned at times. They're, they at least should be a little bit more progressive. A little bit-

Moderator (01:27:42): In, in-

G2: A (01:27:42): ... I mean, in certain things.

Moderator (01:27:43): Like, can you give an example of what they could do more?

G2: A (01:27:45): Like, I mean, I could be wrong about this, 'cause I'm not so educated-

Moderator (01:27:47): That's all right.

G2: A (01:27:47): ... in, like... Uh, for example, like, in Alabama, what's going on with the, um, the abortion? Isn't that Republicans taking over, saying that, "You shouldn't be able to have an abortion?" Isn't that what's going on, overall?

G2: JA (01:27:58): Well, it's, it's kind of, [inaudible 01:28:00] Ron DeSantis is also trying to do like, YouTube...

G2: A (01:28:02): Yeah, that's what I'm saying, like, I find that wrong. But I think, for the most part, they have a pretty good system. It's just that certain things I don't agree with. Because, it is 2022, it's not 1955 right now, you know?

One nationalized Cuban participant outlined each of the policies that Democratic Presidents have done that have helped the people of Cuba, and he had a positive view of the Democratic Party as a result of those implemented policies.

G2: JG (01:30:30): I'm speaking on, only on behalf of Cubans. All right? Well, Cuban American. Uh, the Cuban Adjustment Act was signed by a Democratic president. Right? Lyndon Johnson, 1966. Uh, the Mariel Boatlift was, uh, 1980? It was made possible by, uh, Carter, President Carter, another Democratic president. The, uh, this, uh, dry foot, uh, wet foot policy? 1996, under, uh, President Clinton. So, on behalf of Cubans, I believe we Cubans should be very thankful of Democratic presidents.

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

On immigration, one participant shared that they do not support the Democratic Party's position.

They believe that immigration should be better controlled and that those wanting to immigrate should go through the process. They support the wall because it keeps people from circumventing the process.

G2: A (01:32:43): You know, and then, like, I know I'm, I'm a, a product of immigrants, but it's like you say, like, there's a process to get into this country. Like, who's getting into this country? A bunch of random people who we don't know, and then, by the millions?

G2: A (01:32:56): And, uh... I don't think it's wrong to put a wall. I mean, I think there should be a wall all over the place, some kind of... Go through the process. What is wrong with the process? I mean, w-we just want to get in here and then we want to give them free money, and then it effects our economy? I know they work and they do certain things that we, you know, that certain Americans don't want to do, but I think there should be... I mean, I think, I think it's, it's right to, to make them go through the process.

G2:K (01:34:44): No, I don't think it's, is the thing... I-I don't like his (Trump) personality, I love his policies. Totally different thing. So, I don't like his personality, I think, you know, you know... Yeah, I might, I don't agree with many, you know, maybe his tone of voice here and there. I don't care about that. I don't want to marry the guy, I just need the policies that are going to-

Moderator (01:35:03): And what, what policies specifically [inaudible 01:35:04]?

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FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 3

FOCUS GROUP 3 PARTICIPANTS

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

- 6 female and 3 male
- Income range between \$30k - \$100k
- Education:
 - 1 high school diploma or less
 - 5 some college
 - 2 college graduate
 - 1 postgraduate
 -
- One was from more English than Spanish speaking household, 3 were from a more Spanish than English speaking household, and 5 was from a household that spoke both languages equally
- All participants were born outside the United States

Gender	Age	National Ancestry	Partisanship	Identifier in Transcription
Female	33	Cuba	Democrat	G3: Y
Female	29	Puerto Rico	Independent	G3: N
Female	58	Cuba	Republican	G3: EV
Female	56	Cuba	Independent	G3: M
Male	45	Nicaragua	Republican	G3: RV
Female	48	Cuba	Independent	G3: EL
Male	35	Colombia	Democrat	G3: A
Male	56	Venezuela	Republican	G3: C
Female	56	Uruguay	Democrat	G3: RW

Key Findings: Group 3

SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

- Because participants are seeking out news coverage that is fair and balanced, the news is being consumed on a variety of platforms from their smartphones, to television, to newspapers, to the radio. Several shared that they get news primarily on smartphones, via social media apps like Instagram. One participant shared they use a news aggregate app called News Breaks. Others shared they read newspapers online, including foreign publications, watch cable news stations, use YouTube, and listen to National Public Radio.
- Participants are active seekers of information, and they are searching for unbiased news sources of all kinds including social media. Several shared that they follow political figures and news agencies as part of their quest for unfiltered news. One participant noted that the major television news agencies have a presence on social media and it is the same content that is broadcast.
- Youtube was identified as a source to verify news stories. Participants shared they use the platform to search for specific news stories to learn more about a topic and are self-selecting that content.
- Several participants noted that the news, and particularly local news, only focus on crime and negative stories. They find this to be depressing and some shared they try to avoid the news when large tragedies occur, like the Texas school shootings, because it dominates the news coverage. One participant feels that the local Telemundo television station is primarily negative news, which they do not like. Several agreed that the negative news is what stations believe is the most interesting to viewers and that is why news agencies provide that type of content.
- Spanish language television is described by several as being very exaggerated compared to English news, thus making it less trustworthy.
- When discussing the trustworthiness of social media, several participants brought up the algorithms that the platforms use to target users. One shared she learned about this topic from a Netflix documentary. There is general distrust toward social media, particularly because of the belief that participants feel they are being targeted by social media companies through the use of these algorithms. They discussed how engagement on social media dictates the kind of content that is put in one's social media feed.

Key Findings: Group 3

SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

- For this group, a good citizen is aware of their community and acts responsibly and respectfully toward others, and follows the law. Having a connection to the community and improving the community is key to their definition of a good citizen. But, they point out that there is a difference between being a busybody and a good citizen. Good citizens shouldn't insert themselves into other people's personal business.
- One participant shared that they avoid discussing politics at work because it creates friction in the workplace and they feel that such discussions are unprofessional. Another disagreed, believing that part of being a citizen in the U.S. is the ability to freely speak your mind.
- There was agreement that good citizens participate in protests, but participants shared that the protests must be civil and non-violent. They believe that someone who acts uncivil in protest was not acting like a good citizen.
- Most of the participants believe that it is the responsibility of parents and schools to teach good citizenship. One participant suggested that deviant behavior is caused by unstable homes. Another believed that schools are spending less and less time teaching civic education.
- When discussing the role of religion in being a good citizen, participants shared that religion influences people in different ways. One participant shared she firmly believes in the separation of church and state.
- All of the participants were born outside of the U.S. and became naturalized citizens. They believe it is their civic duty to vote. One participant shared that voting in the U.S. is what finally made them feel like an American citizen.
- Voting was described as "easy" but there was discussion about the wording of propositions as confusing and the number of judicial candidates making the process difficult.
- While most believe that the elections in the US are secure, participants shared that Latinos are more vulnerable to the notion that an election is rigged because they come from home countries where voter and election fraud take place.

Key Findings: Group 3

SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

- While not the most important issue for the group, the Coronavirus is still a major concern because the positivity rate is increasing and the uncertainty of the future. One participant shared that they had concerns about the effects of the vaccine.
- The economy was a major concern for the participants and is defined broadly by the group. They believe the economy includes salaries, jobs, and rising costs of consumer goods. They shared that prices are rising while wages and salaries are remaining flat.
- The group discussed the labor shortage and blamed it on a number of things, from low salaries offered, to living off of the government, to a change in mindset from a regular 9 to 5 job to a more gig economy.
- This group of participants supports the process of legal Immigration and believes that people need to follow proper channels to migrate legally into the U.S. There was no discussion about amnesty for those who entered without permission, nor any discussion about DACA, though one of the participants shared that he crossed the Rio Bravo as a child.
- Discussion about abortion was centered on the exception of rape and the threat of abortion being eliminated. There was a consensus that this exception should remain.
- When discussing crime and safety, schools and the safety of children dominated the discussion. The idea of teachers carrying weapons was discussed, and most, with the exception of one, thought arming teachers was not a good idea. Participants who are teachers joked about having a “hard corner” as a way of protecting themselves in an active shooter situation.

SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

- The Democratic Party was described both positively and negatively by participants. Positive descriptions focused on helping the middle class and the less privileged, while negative descriptions included comparisons to socialism.
- Like the Democratic Party, the Republican Party also was described positively and negatively by the groups, splitting along party lines. Some described the party as emboldening Donald Trump (who is seen as the face of the party) and all the negativity associated with him, while others described the Republican Party as the reason America is a prosperous nation.
- Trump is described as someone who has a divisive personality. Republican participants describe Trump as a successful businessman who was not a politician and successfully ran the country like a business. Others shared their dislike of his personality.
- Both parties are viewed as failing on the issue of immigration. Trump is criticized for wanting to build a wall, but Obama is criticized for deporting the largest number of immigrants.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 3

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 1: CONSUMPTION AND TRUST IN MEDIA

Because participants are seeking out news coverage that is fair and balanced, the news is being consumed on a variety of platforms from their smartphones, to television, to newspapers, to the radio.

Several shared that they get news primarily on smartphones, via social media apps like Instagram. One participant shared they use a news aggregate app called News Breaks. Others shared they read newspapers online, including foreign publications, watch cable news stations, use YouTube, and listen to National Public Radio.

G3: C [00:09:09]: Yes. It's one of the things I do. I get up at 5:00 AM. One of the things I do in the morning is to check the day's news on the phone.

Moderator [00:09:17]: What phone are you looking at? Is it a newspaper, Apple news?

G3: C [00:09:22]: Actually, it is a Miami application. Local News.

G3: Y [00:09:28]: 10? Local 10?

G3: C [00:09:29]: No, News Breaks.

Moderator [00:09:48]: RV, where are you getting your news from?

G3:RV [00:09:51]: From the telephone as well. Same, from any news channel. There's always somebody posting something on Instagram,

G3: RW [00:11:20]: I try to read different ones to know a little bit about everything, I also try foreign media to see how they see us here. I look at my phone, the New York Times, I read the newspaper of Uruguay, of my country sometimes. I watch television. I watch MSNBC and Fox. I don't agree with Fox a lot, but to know how they see things, I try to be a little balanced. I don't do it all the time. I watch CNN and I watch BBC World News. It's very hard to be constantly doing it.

G3: C [00:12:00]: I could add that another channel I use OAN, One American News, which is like News plus politics. They are the two that put you the news as it is, not with so much sensationalism, not Trump against Democrats, but more clear.

G3: Y [00:12:18]: Like NPR

G3: A [00:12:26]: NPR. I have an Alexa at home and it's NPR, all the time.

Moderator [00:12:32]: All the time. Do you trust NPR a lot?

G3: A [00:12:35]: I like it because the things they talk about make sense and they are neutral, neither for one side nor for the other, because I get tired of them talking about one thing only or the other. I want to hear what really happened. No, it's that they start to-- it depends on what you like. They start to wear things out. It's different.

Moderator [00:13:36]: N. Which one do you trust the most? Which news do you trust?

G3: N [00:13:40]: Several of the ones you mentioned, but I follow them on social media. On Facebook or Instagram, same thing, NPR, BBC, Fox, CNN, many. They always come out with updates on social media and so I usually read it.

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

G3: M [00:19:43]: I also go to New York Times, to see more, a little bit more. I go to Channel 10, on social media. There's a little bit of everything. I try to make my own with what one--I like NPR the most.

G3: M [00:26:13]: Channel 10 is ABC.

Moderator [00:26:15]: ABC in English?

G3: M [00:26:16]: In English, yes, also. It's a channel that I think can be trusted a little bit more than the--.

Moderator [00:26:22]: Why is that? Why is that?

G3: M [00:26: 23]: I don't know, it seemed to me that it tells the news more--they explain it better, they give you more details what happened, they go neutral, they don't give you like one side of the other, if they don't know much they tell you, "Well, we'll come back and you'll see more information," I don't know. I think, for me, for my taste.

G3: M [00:26:23]: I don't know, it seemed to me that it tells the news more--they explain it better, they give you more details what happened, they go neutral, they don't give you like one side of the other, if they don't know much they tell you, "Well, we'll come back and you'll see more information," I don't know. I think, for me, for my taste.

Participants are active seekers of information, and they are searching for unbiased news sources of all kinds including social media.

Several shared that they follow political figures and news agencies as part of their quest for unfiltered news. One participant noted that the major television news agencies have a presence on social media and it is the same content that is broadcast.

G3: N [00:14:02]: Yes, I follow specific channels. That's where the news comes out. Usually there is a description of the news and then you have to enter the article to read it in full.

Moderator [00:14:16]: Are you following political people or just the one in the news?

G3: N [00:14:20]: Political people as well.

Moderator [00:14:22]: What are some of these--? Are they different?

G3: N [00:14:26]: Yes, different. Obama. When Trump had social networks I also followed him. I like to hear a little bit from both sides to have a balance.

G3: EV [00:17:59]: It's like news, right, news, scheduled. You have to say such and such. When you hear that television that is giving you some news and you say, "But that isn't true". You compare it with another one, the other one tells you worse and you go comparing, and really what the reality is, nobody tells you.

G3: A [00:22:37]: For example, Facebook has an option that allows you to watch news and there are all the channels that have been mentioned. There is news from CNN, Fox, NPR, everything, Atlantic, New York Times, it depends on the topic you want to read, you choose and it is the same you will see on TV.

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

Youtube was identified as a source to verify news stories.

Participants shared they use the platform to search for specific news stories to learn more about a topic and are self-selecting that content.

G3: M [00:14:56]: I sometimes go to YouTube to look for that specific news item. Also another part, to see what they tell me what they think compared to what I have already heard to know a little bit more what happened. Same thing democrat, republican, independent.

G3: M [00:19:21]: Because it's all negative, it doesn't tell you anything. Like she says, nothing that you say, "Well, okay, okay, we have to be aware of what's going on in the world, it's true, but there's also something good that can be said." I don't like it. The news they give you I compare it to CNN and it's completely different. I go to YouTube and I choose. I don't like this and so on.

Several participants noted that the news, and particularly local news, only focus on crime and negative stories.

They find this to be depressing and some shared they try to avoid the news when large tragedies occur, like the Texas school shootings, because it dominates the news coverage. One participant feels that the local Telemundo television station is primarily negative news, which they do not like. Several agreed that the negative news is what stations believe is the most interesting to viewers and that is why news agencies provide that type of content.

Moderator [00:16:08]: Which social media do you use, Facebook or Instagram?

G3: EL [00:16:11]: Facebook or Instagram, because-

Moderator [00:16:12]: Both?

G3: EL [00:16:12]: I use both. The other things, the way I find out is, my husband puts on the news to go to sleep which drives me crazy. I don't like to hear that before I go to sleep because you go to sleep with all that, but he puts on the news and I fall asleep watching that. Sometimes I hear about things like that, like the unwilling, but I don't really like to watch the news that much. When something happens, it's that constant.

When it was the shooting the other day, you'd turn on any channel and it was all, "Shooting," you go, "That's so depressing," that takes you out of energy well, it puts you in another mindset.

G3: RW [00:17:00]: In the local news it's really all crime. They don't show you any positive news.

What I have noticed with foreign channels, European channels, is that they always have a moment to give you positive news or history this year or green news, green news, something that lifts your spirits. I wish the news in the U.S. had a positive part because good things have to happen and they only talk about the bad all the time.

G3: M [00:19:10]: I sometimes watch CNN, sometimes I watch 51, but 51 is horrible.

Moderator [00:19:16]: Which is the 51st?

G3: M [00:19:17]: The 51st is Telemundo, which is a Latin channel.

Moderator [00:19:19]: Why is it so horrible?

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

G3: M [00:19:21]: *Because it's all negative, it doesn't tell you anything. Like she says, nothing that you say, "Well, okay, okay, we have to be aware of what's going on in the world, it's true, but there's also something good that can be said." I don't like it. The news they give you I compare it to CNN and it's completely different. I go to YouTube and I choose. I don't like this and so on.*

G3: RW [00:23:26]: *In the local news they talk mostly about what is happening here, who killed who in such and such neighborhood. It is very little. Sometimes they repeat what happened in the country, what happened in Uvalde. This week there have been so many shootings that I can't remember them all. What a horror. For example, you can see an interview of some UN medical thing, some thing like that, something touristic. All of a sudden, some thing like that. They show something more positive.*

G3: RV [00:24:05]: *The little girl graduated from high school and she is so smart that she applied to the eight best schools, universities in the United States and in all eight she was accepted. Nobody talks about it, because of course, it's a happy thing and nobody comments on how happy.*

G3: RW [00:24:22]: *I don't understand where did it come from that the bad stuff will sell you?*

G3: Y [00:24:27]: *It's just not interesting to people.*

G3: M [00:24:30]: *It doesn't attract the attention. Exactly.*

G3: Y [00:24:31]: *The bad things are fortunately what is most interesting.*

G3: A [00:24:34]: *The things that create controversy.*

Spanish language television is described by several as being very exaggerated compared to English news, thus making it less trustworthy.

G3: A [00:20:00]: *It seems to me that the Latin channels, the Latin news programs exaggerate more than the others.*

G3: EL [00:20:05]: *Yes, quite a lot.*

G3: A [00:20:06]: *Because, for example, the times I go to the gym, I have the TV and they have 51, and the news they show is that, you know more or less what happened, and they go somewhere else. Exaggerating the thing. The drama and the thing. I get angry and I turn it off.*

G3: EV [00:20:24]: *Yes, it is true.*

G3: RW [00:20:26]: *Exactly.*

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

When discussing the trustworthiness of social media, several participants brought up the algorithms that the platforms use to target users. One shared she learned about this topic from a Netflix documentary.

There is general distrust toward social media, particularly because of the belief that participants feel they are being targeted by social media companies through the use of these algorithms. They discussed how engagement on social media dictates the kind of content that is put in one's social media feed.

Moderator [00:21:14]: In social networks which one do you trust more, Facebook or Twitter, Instagram, TikTok?

G3: N [00:21:19]: Any.

G3: Y [00:21:21]: It's all an algorithm.

Moderator [00:21:25]: Let's see, tell me about it.

G3: Y [00:21:26]: I don't know how to say algorithm in Spanish.

G3: A [00:21:29]: Algoritmo.

G3: Y [00:21:30]: There was even a documentary on Netflix, that basically what you click on or you're talking to your friends and when you go on Instagram a shoe comes up, a purse. Depending on what you choose or what you like or what you see on Amazon, which is connected, or on Google, you are going to get that. It's not valid, because it's based on what you think.

G3: Y [00:22:09]: Different from the algorithm, as I say, it depends on what you choose, it's what pulls you. People who are either superstitious or-

G3: A [00:24:34]: The things that create controversy.

[cross talk]

G3: RW [00:24:36]: People connect, connect, connect with that.

Moderator [00:24:39]: [unintelligible 00:24:40] there are 1,000 Latin Americans.

G3: M [00:24:45]: It is what it is, it is what sells as she says, it people connect and connect. How many likes, how many people, how many people are interested, they comment, all that now with this social media is what has been put.

G3: N [00:24:55]: The scandal draws attention.

G3: M [00:24:56]: Scandal.

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 2: VOTING AND CIVIC ATTITUDES

For this group, a good citizen is aware of their community and acts responsibly and respectfully toward others, and follows the law.

Having a connection to the community and improving the community is key to their definition of a good citizen. But, they point out that there is a difference between being a busybody and a good citizen. Good citizens shouldn't insert themselves into other people's personal business.

G3: RW [00:27:09]: A good citizen seems to me to be a person who adapts himself or herself to live in society in a way that he or she also thinks that he or she lives surrounded by others, that they cannot pretend that everything is good for them or that benefits them, that they need to have empathy. To be a good citizen is to be polite in the street, to be kind in the street, to think of others, to not throw something on the floor because I think it might bother someone. It is to be aware that we are all living together.

G3: EV [00:29:16]: Yes. You can no longer-- I am going to give you a very clear example. I live close by in South Miami and I live alone, but I started to clean out the closets of many packages to take them to my mother so that she could take them to Cuba. The neighbor across the street sent a letter to the principal of my school asking her what was wrong with me that I hadn't told her that I was going to move. My God. When the next day the principal said to me, "EV, what happened?", "I don't know", if I live across the street, why didn't she tell me? To send it to my boss, because she isn't a sweetheart either, I don't know. Unbelievable. She seems to have said, "Well, this trafficker".

G3: N [00:31:00]: That they also know how to abide by the laws we have. I know that sometimes it is impossible to respect the laws 100%, but there are basic things that should definitely be respected. For example, traffic rules, which I think are quite easy to follow, but many people don't respect them. There are accidents and it's not that "I scraped the car". There are people who die because of things like that that are easy to avoid. I think the most basic thing, respect.

One participant shared that they avoid discussing politics at work because it creates friction in the workplace and they feel that such discussions are unprofessional. Another disagreed, believing that part of being a citizen in the U.S. is the ability to freely speak your mind.

G3: A [00:32:05]: Normally there are issues such as politics, you feel how the environment is, because there are people who are super-drastic in their point of view and if you say something contrary, you are the enemy of another person. For example, I have been asked the question in my work several times, whether I am a democrat, whether I am a republican. I say, "That's too bad, but I don't talk politics.

Moderator [00:32:33]: Why is that?

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 3

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

G3: A [00:32:34]: *Because I don't want to give them something to talk about. What I think or what I do or who I vote for, that is my problem, but if there are people who stand up, for example, a Cuban colleague, she stood up in the middle of the hallway to say that Biden was an mf'er, that Biden was I don't know what. I was just watching her. I said, "My God, don't you see the company cameras everywhere? What is that? That's not professional."*

G3: C [00:33:24]: *I was referencing what he had said that Biden is an mf'er and that he wasn't far off in saying that. On the other hand, she has the right to say whatever she wants, because that's part of being a citizen too. That's the freedom that we have. Whether it looks bad to other people, whether other people don't like her, that's another thing. The main thing, I think, not to do something that you wouldn't want done to you in the [unintelligible 00:33:46]. That's the principle.*

There was agreement that good citizens participate in protests, but participants shared that the protests must be civil and non-violent.

They believe that someone who acts uncivil in protest was not acting like a good citizen.

G3:RV [00:34:28]: *If it is a passive protest, everybody can participate in that. It is a way of getting closer to the people and to other people who think the same way, in the same way. Now, if they take it to the extreme, to vandalism, to breaking things, to inciting a riot, that's different, but a normal assembly, that's perfect.*

Most of the participants believe that it is the responsibility of parents and schools to teach good citizenship.

One participant suggested that deviant behavior is caused by unstable homes. Another believed that schools are spending less and less time teaching civic education.

00:34:50] Moderator: *They have shared many ideas about what a good citizen is. Where should this concept be taught? Where does that responsibility fall?*

G3: M [00:35:05]: *At home and at school.*

[00:35:08] Moderator: *One by one. C?*

G3: C [00:35:09]: *Both. Home and school.*

G3: C [00:35:15]: *That's what I believe. I think that one of the biggest situations because of the gun things, of what is happening with the young people who want to kill people because they don't have that factor of education at home because if they had their parents---Many of these cases you always realize that it is a single mother, a single father or they live with another person far away from the family, they don't have a family, the society, family is the basis of our society, not having this implies that the values are lost to be able to teach.*

It must be something that we must instill in our children both at school and at home, because it isn't all that we throw the child to school, at school they aren't going to teach you that, it is what you also have to contribute from your home to teach your child.

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

G3: RW [00:36:46]: *I think it is a combination, what the gentleman says here is totally in agreement, unfortunately as you say, not all realities are good. If the school would be complemented by giving moral and civic education values. It is a subject that I had in high school when I attended. There too, at least a little bit of what perhaps children already bring from home is incorporated, but there is less and less space and room in schools for these things or perhaps the selections of the subjects that are made, I don't know, it is getting a little bit lost, which is a pity.*

G3: RV [00:38:11]: *I think that, like everything else, school is in theory, "I'm going to teach you to be a good citizen. I'm going to teach you all the rules," all that, but at home it's the practice because otherwise you're there constantly telling the kids, "This is what you have to do." At the end of the day we raise children for society, we don't raise them for us. They are locked up in the house and they can already--my children in my house mess everything up, in someone else's house they can't do anything because that's the way they were taught.*

When discussing the role of religion in being a good citizen, participants shared that religion influences people in different ways. One participant shared she firmly believes in the separation of church and state.

G3: N [00:40:55]: *What role will religion have on people? I think it is a little more difficult to know how much influence it has, because each person has an individual relationship with their faith, with their religion, with how they practice their religion.*

G3: RW [00:41:10]: *The problem is when they try to impose on you, based on their religious beliefs, laws on the country. According to their religious beliefs they want to impose laws on you because they believe that is true for them, so that is true for you. That is the problem. That's why I've always agreed all my life that religion and the state should be totally separate.*

G3: A [00:41:34]: *Separate, yes. I agree with that.*

All of the participants were born outside of the U.S. and became naturalized citizens.

They believe it is their civic duty to vote. One participant shared that voting in the U.S. is what finally made them feel like an American citizen.

G3: Y [00:46:55]: *I felt like a citizen when I registered to vote. It's like a privilege, it's a decision you are making. Whether you win or not, it's a right, it's a right.*

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 3

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

G3: N [00:47:14]: *In Peru it is said that voting is a duty, not a right. One always has that mindset that it isn't optional, that you have to contribute with your vote in such an important decision for the country. For me becoming a citizen was in my mind that it is a duty that I have to vote and contribute with my vote, good or bad.*

G3: RW [00:50:26]: *I voted because so far it hasn't happened to me, I cannot imagine not voting because, as the ladies here say, it is an obligation, a duty.*

Voting was described as “easy” but there was discussion about the wording of propositions as confusing and the number of judicial candidates making the process difficult.

G3: N [00:47:54]: *It's easy to vote definitely, but it's not just that you're voting for the president, there are more things to vote for. Sometimes the language of the questions is maybe not so simple if you're not informed. At least that's what I have to do, look at the sample ahead of time so I can look up, look at the judges and all that, you don't get so involved with that more local government information. It's easy but there's definitely more information to fill out.*

G3: M [00:49:32]: *I would like to add that sometimes the way they ask the question is a little bit--they treat it with a lot of verbiage that sometimes is positive, but at the same time it gives you a negative version, you are like "Well, do I vote yes or no? They should make it a little more explicit, a little easier to understand, more for the older people who sometimes also-*

While most believe that the elections in the US are secure, participants shared that Latinos are more vulnerable to the notion that an election is rigged because they come from home countries where voter and election fraud take place.

Moderator [00:53:46]: *They say you think the election result is agreed beforehand. People here think the elections are agreed beforehand?*

G3: RW [00:53:53]: *No, for God's sake. Good question, this country is how old? 270-something years old?*

G3: A [00:53:59]: *Almost 280.*

G3: RW [00:54:00]: *Exactly. There was never a doubt that this country had ugly elections, never. People that come to fill your head with stories are unfair, people don't believe the history of the country and they believe a person.*

Moderator [00:54:14]: *Does anyone feel differently from RW or think alike? You can have different opinions here, I hope we will have different opinions.*

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

G3: C [00:54:23]: I think there was something that wasn't quite clear, with all that was said about the Trump election. I think that-

Moderator [00:54:31]: What election?

G3: C [00:54:32]: Trump's, the one that Trump lost with this Mr. Biden. For many people who were winning Trump, went to bed watching him win and woke up losing. That change was too abrupt to assimilate that it was normal. A lot of stories came out. True or false, it creates something that makes you say, "Wow, that happened in our Latin countries, now maybe it's happening here too". It's a machine that is creeping in little by little, that has crept into the countries. I think it isn't the best thing we see in our country, but we have to move forward and hope that we can change those areas, that the voting systems are improved, that there is a greater control. I still don't understand why when they went to do the audits, in certain places they took them out of the people that were Trump people and left the Democrats in. That's what he said to me, "There's something weird here," you see that in Latin countries. People who haven't been through that in Latin countries it seems to me that they have to start looking at what has left Latin countries, in those like Venezuela. In Venezuela there are elections every year and who wins? They win, it is a lie.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 3

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 3: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

While not the most important issue for the group, the Coronavirus is still a major concern because the positivity rate is increasing and the uncertainty of the future.

One participant shared that they had concerns about the effects of the vaccine.

G3: M [00:58:34]: Of course, this is still not completely under control, many people are getting the vaccine and everything, but there is still a long way to go.

G3: Y [00:58:47]: Of course, we don't know what the vaccine will do to us.

G3: M [00:58:49]: Yes it is true that there is less death, but for now people are getting sick, maybe it isn't so drastic when it started at the beginning.

G3: EL [00:59:00]: Figures are increasing again because[unintelligible 00:59:02] are again.

G3: M [00:59:03]: Are again.

The economy was a major concern for the participants and is defined broadly by the group.

They believe the economy includes salaries, jobs, and rising costs of consumer goods. They shared that prices are rising while wages and salaries are remaining flat.

G3: RV [00:59:43]: Economy for me means salary or job, the stock market which is what gives everything here. That is what is important, for me.

Moderator [00:59:55]: EV, for you?

G3: EV [00:59:57]: The economy is wages, as the gentleman says. Work, supply, gasoline, because with an average salary today nobody lives, rents are super expensive, gasoline, food, and wages remain the same or worse.

G3: Y [01:00:32]: With what EV was saying, that's what I was thinking about inflation and rising costs, food, gasoline, rents. Everything goes up, the salary remains normal, unless you take a new job. For example, people who have worked in a company for 10, 20 years, the salary isn't the same as the new ones who have started. There is no balance.

G3: N [01:01:01]: The same, that all prices of all things, not only gasoline, everything is going up. The supply is also not enough and the salaries are staying around, they don't change much.

The group discussed the labor shortage and blamed it on a number of things, from low salaries offered, to living off of the government, to a change in mindset from a regular 9 to 5 job to a more gig economy.

G3: EL [01:01:41]: They don't want to work, it isn't that there are no people, it is that people don't want to work.

G3: RW [01:01:45]: That's bringing them up a little bit, I'm not saying it's enough.

G3: RW [01:01:48] Moderator:, wait for me. EL, will you tell me why they don't want to work?

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

G3: EL [01:01:51]: Everywhere you go they are always looking. You go to any restaurant, they are short staffed, you go to any supermarket, short staffed.

[01:01:57] Moderator: Why don't they want to work?

G3: EL [01:01:58]: I think they got used to living with what the government was giving them.

G3: RW [01:02:02]: But no one gives them, the government no longer helps anyone.

G3: EL [01:02:04]: They are getting something from somewhere, although they aren't giving it, they are doing something that they aren't working on.

G3: C [01:02:09]: They learned to live off other markets, people who lost their jobs started doing Uber, started doing Uber Eats, Dash, all those apps that pay you some money to get through the day. Bread for today, who knows for tomorrow. They make more money and work when they want to.

This group of participants supports the process of legal Immigration and believes that people need to follow proper channels to migrate legally into the U.S.

There was no discussion about amnesty for those who entered without permission, nor any discussion about DACA, though one of the participants shared that he crossed the Rio Bravo as a child.

G3: M [01:05:33]: When you came here, you had someone to welcome you, you had something to support you a little bit and start working and start a new life, which is what we all came here for. Everything has been now that everything is to come in, the government gives you help right away, they don't know who is coming in, it seems to me that it is very uncontrolled. There is no one to put an end to it and do it with more sanity, with more laws. Follow the laws, follow the regulations.

G3: EV [01:07:37]: I give a very simple example regarding immigration. In my house I let in whoever I think should enter. Whoever doesn't, cannot enter. He cannot enter through the back door, enter because I want to enter your house, or come to my house and say, "No, I want this to be here and this to be here", no. My house is my house and you come to visit it, to stay there. My house is my house and you come to visit it, to stay and live there, but you have to respect my conditions, my laws that I have in my house. That is the only example I give in terms of immigration.

G3: RV [01:28:07]: Yes, but they aren't focusing on the children that we are going to put them in church, they are focusing on the adults who come here to do crime, who have lived in the United States, who have been in prison in the United States for rape, for killing, and they have been deported to their countries and come back again. I am an immigrant, I came to this country when I was 12 years old, I crossed the Rio Bravo and look how it is. I am not complaining about that, but what I am saying is, how do you open the door? You have to have a balance and a count. As she says, "Do you have an education? Do you have a career? Okay, you're going to come first because I'm going to take advantage of you."

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

Discussion about abortion was centered on the exception of rape and the threat of abortion being eliminated. There was a consensus that this exception should remain.

G3: EV [01:09:52]: Depending, because if it is a woman raped by someone I think she should have the right to have an abortion because really that child isn't well achieved. I say, it should be a choice.

G3: C [01:10:11]: That had already been in the law, it had already been approved here in the 70s.

G3: A [01:10:16]: No, but for example, there are many women who are raped by stepfathers, stepbrothers, cousins, how do you explain to a baby where it came from? Do you have to have it the hard way?

When discussing crime and safety, schools and the safety of children dominated the discussion.

The idea of teachers carrying weapons was discussed, and most, with the exception of one, thought arming teachers was not a good idea. Participants who are teachers joked about having a “hard corner” as a way of protecting themselves in an active shooter situation.

G3: M [01:11:39]: Me, because I feel insecure. The children in the school itself I feel insecure, because I don't know a person who comes, as the man says here.

G3: EL [01:11:49]: Don't you have a hard corner?

G3: M [01:11:50]: What?

G3: EL [01:11:51]: Don't you have a hard corner to hide in?

G3: EV [01:11:52]: Yes, I have a hard corner but I forgot about it because [unintelligible 01:11:55] solve a lot with a hard corner.

G3: M [01:11:58]: Now they want to put teachers-

G3: C [01:12:01]: Carrying of weapons.

G3: EV [01:12:02]: -weapons.

G3: M [01:12:03]: Oh, my God, why?

G3: C [01:12:03]: Perfect.

G3: RW [01:12:06]: Please imagine that the teacher goes over the edge, goes over the top, comes mad from home and points a gun at a child.

G3: RV [01:12:14]: But that's where the training comes in.

G3: RW [01:12:15]: No, what training? The human mind never knows where it goes, please

FINDINGS FROM SECTION 4: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICS

The Democratic Party was described both positively and negatively by participants.

Positive descriptions focused on helping the middle class and the less privileged, while negative descriptions included comparisons to socialism.

G3: N [01:14:48]: Democratic Party, more concerned about the environment, free access to all health care and education. They have more focus on opening doors to immigrants.

G3: M [01:16:07]: I put social health economic benefit for all. It opens doors to programs for people who have less-

Moderator [01:16:17]: As a social program.

G3: M [01:16:18]: Social programs. More resources to students in schools, they have been cut now. Accept ourselves, have empathy with the other person.

G3: RV [01:16:32]: I put gun control, unemployment unfortunately, high prices.

Moderator [01:16:39]: Unemployment in a negative way, right?

G3: RV [01:16:42]: Negative, yes.

G3: A [01:17:17]: I like them but there are things, for example, I feel they are very weak, they don't fight enough. They have to fight and not let themselves, because they are politically correct they don't make the moves they have to make.

Moderator [01:17:34]: C, what did you put?

G3: C [01:17:36]: These are liberal ideas, very liberal ideas that the Democratic Party has. They have always been like that. Sometimes they worked for good, sometimes for bad, making changes or trying to make changes. Many times they work. We look at it from a social point of view for everybody but behind everything there is a bigger structure, I think. Supposedly, the Obamacare Program benefited many Democratic Parties. On the other hand, they own almost all the shares of the clinics where you go for testing. It's a way to inject more money into their party from another point of view. For me, I see it as a party that is very much based on pro-socialist ideas, pro seeking to put in the mindset of young people who don't know the word social, the word conservative, the word liberal. They've got a lot of people fooled unfortunately. That's my opinion.

G3: RW [01:18:44]: The Democratic Party seems to me to be betting on a strong middle class, it has more interest in the human being. In the history of this country, all the great laws, like Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and other great laws that have lifted up the middle class, have always been by Democratic presidents. By and large that.

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

Like the Democratic Party, the Republican Party also was described positively and negatively by the groups, splitting along party lines.

Some described the party as emboldening Donald Trump (who is seen as the face of the party) and all the negativity associated with him, while others described the Republican Party as the reason America is a prosperous nation.

G3: RW [01:19:21]: There are two parties, the current one and the usual. I don't know which one to put but the current one has me horrified, greed, power, widespread corruption. It's not what I always thought all my life about the Republican Party. That is now.

Moderator [01:19:39]: Why is that? Is it Trump's fault?

G3: RW [01:19:44] Rosa: In general, it is. It awakened Pandora's box, as I see it.

G3: C [01:19:51]: I see it as a country, conservative ideas that have kept the country where it is going. I think we are going from a big change, in the history of the Republican parties that you vote for there have always been the two extremes.

Moderator [01:20:09]: What did you write right now?

G3: C [01:20:11]: There are conservative ideas that help to continue to maintain this great nation as the best in the world.

G3: A [01:20:20]: I put quite a few things. That I don't and would never identify with this party. I put, "A lot of religious zealotry." I don't like guns personally, I respect who they like, but they run a hypocrisy that they want to control abortion and who has an abortion, but then when Democrats want to tell them that they're going to put gun control on them, "Oh no, because it's my freedom," that's hypocrisy.

G3: RV [01:21:28]: I put better economy, from my point of view. Trump, obviously. He's the one that represents the Republican Party now in these last few years. He's the only thing they run into, I don't know. Forget about all the presidents that have come Republican, Trump is the only one that counts.

G3: Y [01:23:09]: Conservative, close minded, Trump, and who only want the rich to be rich.

Trump is described as someone who has a divisive personality. Republican participants describe Trump as a successful businessman who was not a politician and successfully ran the country like a business. Others shared their dislike of his personality.

G3: RV [01:21:59]: I think it may be a product of the way he ran the country, because he was running it as a business. It wasn't as a politician, it was more for the benefit of us, of the citizens.

G3: A [01:24:18]: In my country I am conservative. In Colombia I am conservative, I have nothing against conservatives, but I don't like what I see here. Absolutely, not at all.

G3: M [01:24:29]: When I was a Republican I voted for Reagan, I loved Reagan and I kept voting for that. When Trump came along I didn't like him at all, I said, "I don't believe in him," I switched and went independent.

FOCUS GROUP HIGHLIGHTS - GROUP 3

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

Both parties are viewed as failing on the issue of immigration. Trump is criticized for wanting to build a wall, but Obama is criticized for deporting the largest number of immigrants.

G3: Y [01:25:54]: From what we saw Trump even wanted to put a wall on the border, that this is impossible and that Mexicans were going to pay for it. I don't see how the Republicans are with immigration. Wait. Also the Democratic side when they were talking about Obama and when there was the children detention stuff, you don't know, at the end.

Moderator [01:26:28]: What did you say, N?

G3: N [01:26:30]: That under Obama was when there were more deportations, and [unintelligible 01:26:33] presented-

G3: C [01:26:34]: What did they do? They're the ones who used the kids they detained when Trump was there. That wasn't done by Trump, that was done by Obama.

G3: Y [01:26:41]: Yes, but the detentions were still there and they were still putting the kids in. That hasn't changed for the better, you know what I mean? They're still bringing kids in at the border and they're putting them in shelters trying to reunify them with family, relatives, somebody.

G3: A [01:27:15]: A problem that the two parties have to agree on, because it's not just a matter of Biden signing or Trump signing, they both have to get it through the Senate.

G3: M [01:27:42]: Because of the kids, okay, maybe it started with the Democrats but also Trump helped that. Now both of you get on and, "How are we going to solve this? Can we send them back to their family?". The family isn't found, so they did like Peter Pan when Cuba, they sent them to some churches until somebody either adopted them or a family-

G3: RW [01:28:04]: That's 500 times more than Peter Pan.

G3: RV [01:28:07]: Yes, but they aren't focusing on the children that we are going to put them in church, they are focusing on the adults who come here to do crime, who have lived in the United States, who have been in prison in the United States for rape, for killing, and they have been deported to their countries and come back again. I am an immigrant, I came to this country when I was 12 years old, I crossed the Rio Bravo and look how it is. I am not complaining about that, but what I am saying is, how do you open the door? You have to have a balance and a count. As she says, "Do you have an education? Do you have a career? Okay, you're going to come first because I'm going to take advantage of you."

Note: Some quotes from focus groups have been edited for brevity and clarity.

Emerson College

P O L L I N G

120 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116
617-824-8500