State of the Facts 2019: Elections
Key Findings

State of the Facts Poll 2019: Elections

- Few Americans think elections are frequently informed by facts. Less than 2-in-10 say politicians’ messages or voters’ choices are based on factual information.

- Republicans and Baby Boomers are more skeptical than Democrats and Millennials about political candidates and their campaigns.

- Lack of faith in elections is part of a broader crisis around facts: Americans are deeply divided on what information to trust, though they agree on what facts should be.
  - For more information, see State of the Facts 2019
Americans say facts often missing from the election process

State of the Facts Poll 2019: Elections

How often do you think each of the following are based on factual information?

Source: AP-NORC/USAFacts poll conducted October 15-28, 2019, with 1,032 adults
Republicans, Boomers are more skeptical than Democrats, Millennials

**State of the Facts Poll 2019: Elections**

| Source: AP-NORC/USAFACTS poll conducted October 15-28, 2019, with 1,032 adults |

**How often do you think each of the following are based on factual information?**

**Percent who say rarely or never**

- Reporting from the media: 15% Democrats, 37% Independents, 46% Republicans
- Debates between political candidates: 27% Democrats, 42% Independents, 51% Republicans
- Political candidates’ campaign messages: 39% Democrats, 47% Independents, 54% Republicans
- Decisions made by policymakers: 23% Democrats, 33% Independents, 42% Republicans
- Voting choices made by Americans: 30% Democrats, 33% Independents, 33% Republicans

**Percentage point difference between Republicans and Democrats**

- Reporting from the media: 31 points
- Debates between political candidates: 24 points
- Political candidates’ campaign messages: 15 points
- Decisions made by policymakers: 10 points
- Voting choices made by Americans: 0 points

**Percentage point difference between Boomers and Millennials**

- Reporting from the media: 13 points
- Debates between political candidates: 10 points
- Political candidates’ campaign messages: 3 points
- Decisions made by policymakers: 0 points
- Voting choices made by Americans: -8 points
Methodology

State of the Facts Poll 2019

- Nationwide poll of 1,032 adults conducted October 15-28 using the AmeriSpeak Panel®. AmeriSpeak is NORC’s probability based panel designed to be representative of all US households. Poll conducted by The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and funded by USAFacts.
  - Margin of error +/- 4.2 percentage points
  - 888 via the web and 144 via telephone
  - Interviews conducted in English and Spanish
  - Cumulative response rate of 8.5%
    - Final stage completion rate = 29.1%
    - Weighted household panel response rate = 34.2%
    - Weighted household panel retention rate = 85.6%

- Examines views on federal government information and perceptions of facts