



CITIZEN DATA

TO: Interested parties

FROM: Citizen Data

DATE: November 3, 2020

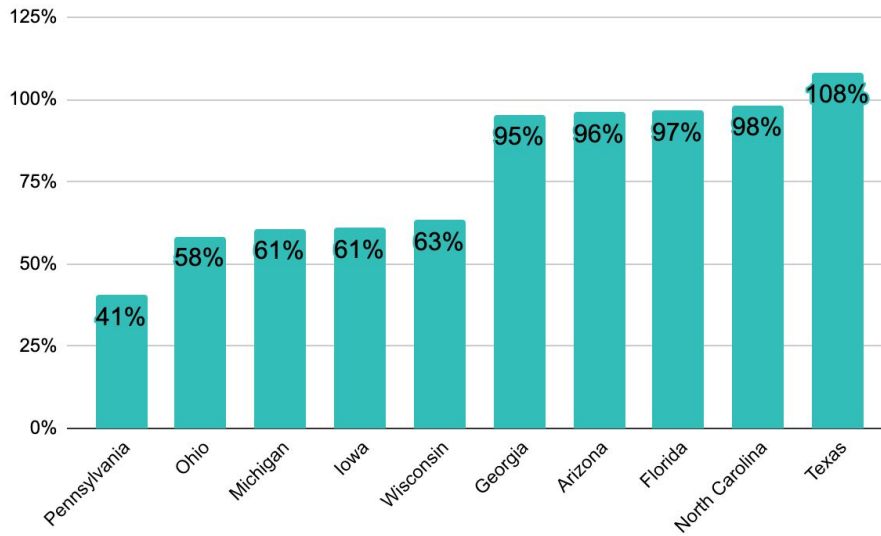
SUBJ: Why Election Day May Surprise You... by Being Normal

In this unprecedented election landscape, some members of the media and the public are concerned that votes will not be counted quickly and therefore results will be delayed. This has led to increased speculation around a data phenomenon being referred to as the “red mirage,” in which votes coming in on today, Election Day, will indicate a Trump win — only to shift to a Biden victory as absentee votes are counted after.

According to our data, prospects of a “red mirage” (or any mirage) are exaggerated, and, because states have bolstered their mail vote counting operations to meet the increased demand, we can expect “no mirage” (an expeditious result), or, if anything, a “blue mirage”.

Most voters in battleground states will have already voted by Election Day. In sunbelt states, for example, we can expect about 4 out of 5 voters to have cast their ballots before November 3. While the self-reported vote method is not a perfect predictor of actual behavior, the [early turnout observed by the Citizen team thus far](#) tracks with these results. More Texans have voted before November 3 as of October 30 than the total who voted in 2016, and Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina are close behind with 96%, 96%, and 98% respectively of their 2016 vote total having already cast ballots. This is the effect of increased turnout, and even moreso a dramatic shift towards voting before Election Day.

Early Vote as % of 2016 vote

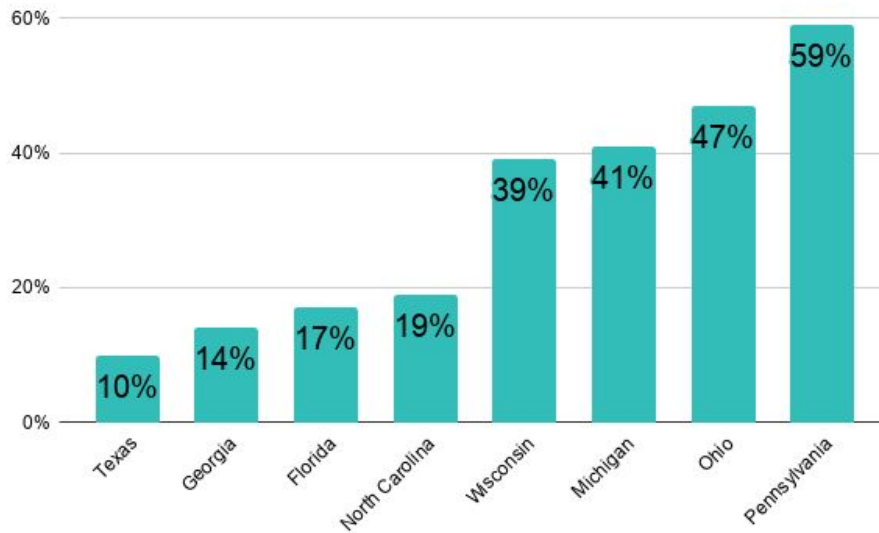


Most states are processing ballots already, and, in some states, most vote by mail and early in-person ballots will have been counted prior to Election Day.

Only in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania will no mail ballots have been processed before Election Day, and Wisconsin is assuring the public they will count rapidly and be through their backlog by the day after Election Day. In Michigan, mail ballots were processed, but not yet counted, until today, Election Day. In Texas, Georgia, Florida, and Ohio, early and mail votes will be processed and counted quickly and reported in tandem or within hours of Election Day votes today. Moreover, in Texas, mail ballots are expected to be only 15% of the overall vote, and will have been processed before today in most counties. In Georgia, both mail and early votes are expected to be some of the first in or reported in tandem with Election Day votes. And, in Florida, early and absentee votes are counted in advance and historically reported first on Election night, with Election Day results immediately following.



% of Election Day votes, per likely voter surveys Oct. 17-20



Votes that came in leading up to Election Day will prove to have been a mixed bag. More than half of votes by mail will have been cast by registered or likely Democrats, and most of those votes will have been for Joe Biden. Early in-person votes will have been mixed, but lean Republican. A few examples of the partisan gaps we've seen thus far:



Partisan Gap in Mail and In-Person Early Vote through 11/3

	Ballot Returns	% Dem	% Rep	% NP
Florida (VBM)	4,732,927	45%	31%	24%
Florida (Early IP)	4,337,650	32%	45%	22%
Pennsylvania (VBM)	2,414,351	66%	23%	11%
North Carolina (VBM)	937,895	45%	20%	34%
North Carolina (Early IP)	3,613,068	35%	35%	30%
Iowa (VBM + Early IP)	955,971	46%	33%	21%
Arizona (VBM + Early IP)	2,471,577	37%	37%	26%

While registered Democrats have held the advantage in votes pre-Election Day, our survey data indicates that the advantage for Democratic candidates is even greater due mostly to independent voters' candidate preferences. When pre-November 3 and November 3 voters were asked about their presidential preference in our likely voter surveys (n=1,000 via IVR/P2P Oct. 17-20), they broke down this way:



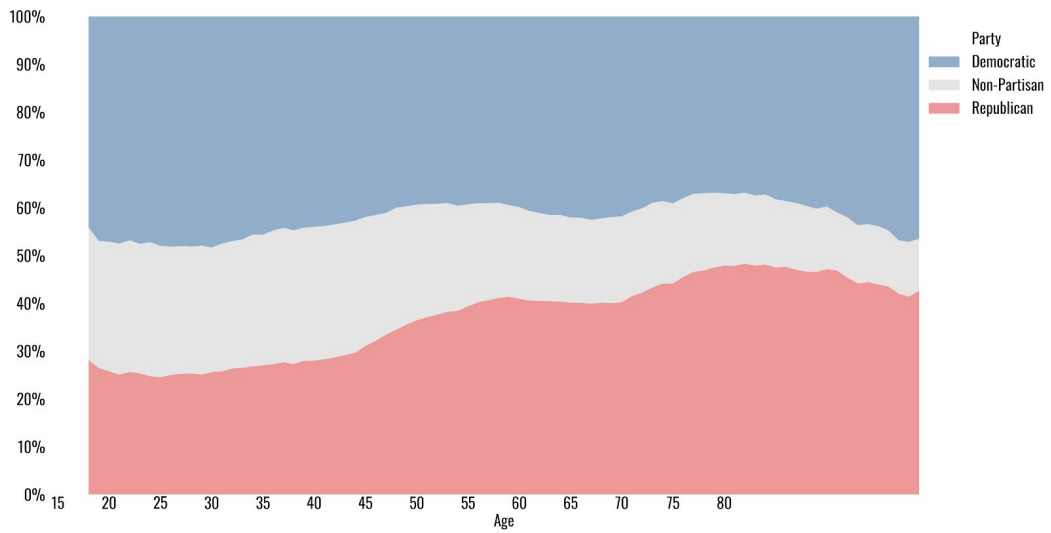
PRE-ELECTION DAY	Biden	Trump	Other
Florida	64%	31%	6%
Pennsylvania	79%	12%	10%
North Carolina	71%	25%	5%
Georgia	62%	33%	5%
Michigan	70%	24%	6%
Ohio	66%	28%	6%

ELECTION DAY	Biden	Trump	Other
Florida	35%	57%	8%
Pennsylvania	22%	57%	21%
North Carolina	36%	58%	6%
Georgia	31%	61%	9%
Michigan	25%	63%	13%
Ohio	28%	60%	11%

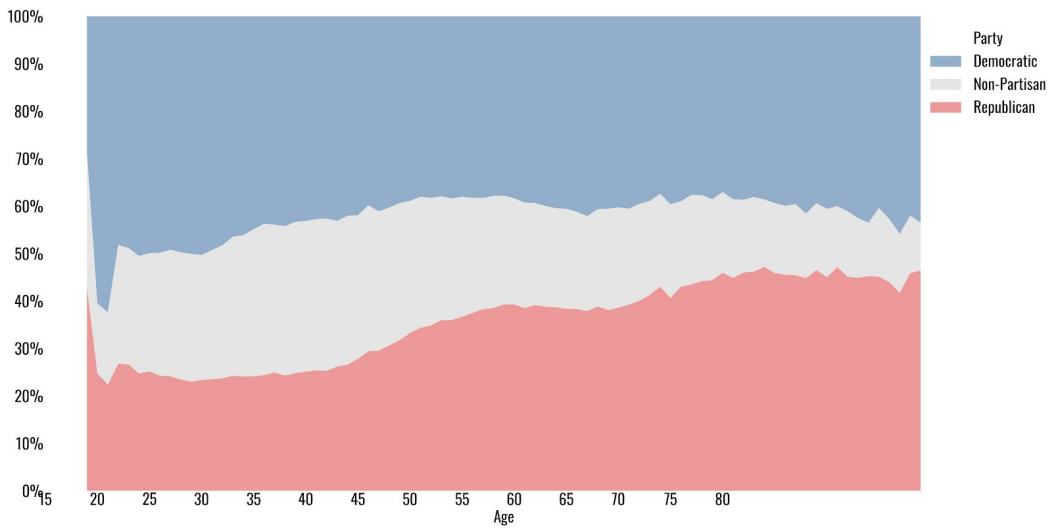
Again, Pennsylvania remains the exception to this rule, given their steep partisan gap in voting method and the fact that they don't count absentees prior to Election Day.



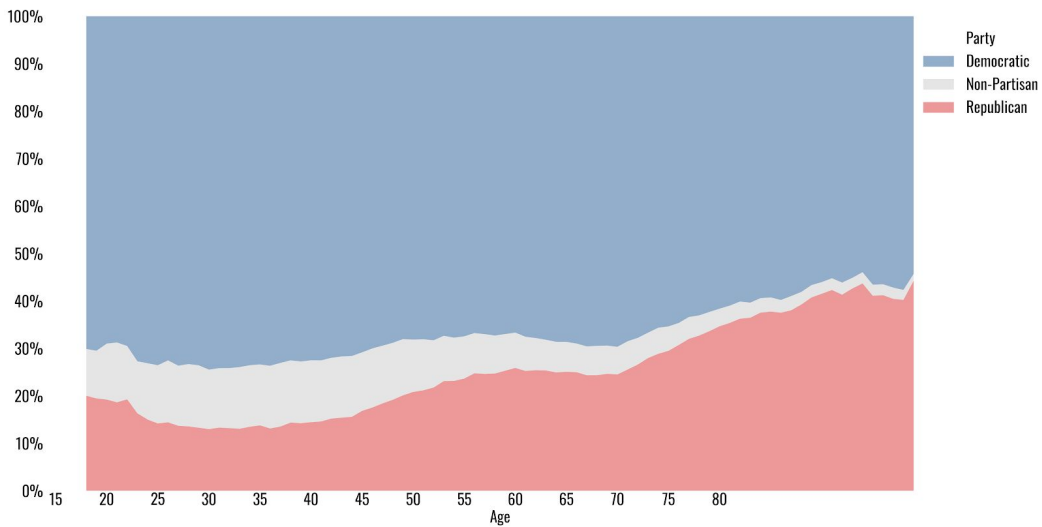
Florida Early Voters



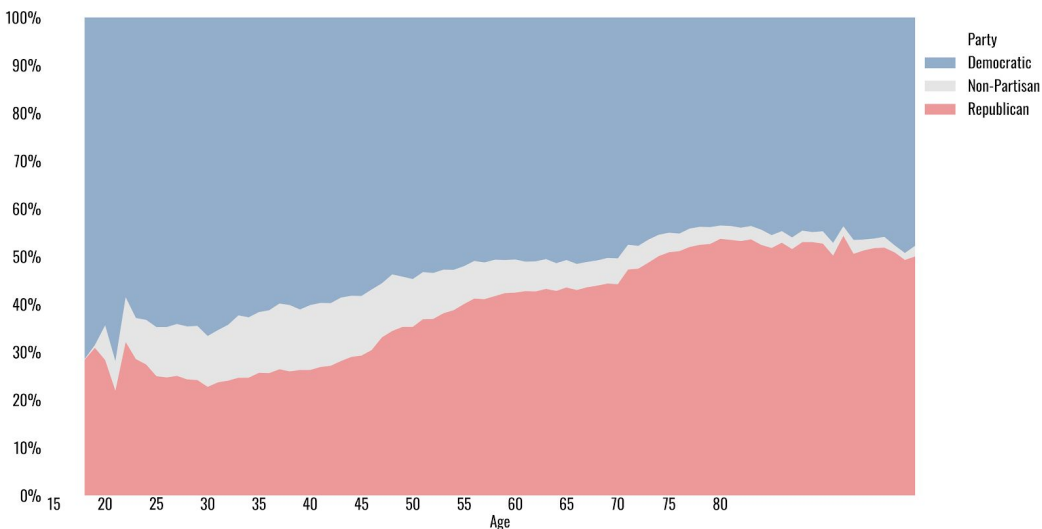
Florida Likely Voters Yet to Vote



Pennsylvania Early Voters



Pennsylvania Likely Voters Yet to Vote



Election Day, early in-person, and most absentee votes will be counted and subsequently reported in a very short window today. Election Day votes are expected to favor Trump; however, there will be fewer Election Day votes than early and mail votes, and all will be reported in tandem or close succession, with the exception of Pennsylvania. In Pennsylvania, the majority of voters are still expected to cast ballots today; however, Pennsylvania is the “problem child” state where



delays in counting absentees will most likely occur. Most counties have added significantly more machine and manpower to count absentees starting at 7 a.m. today, and most of the larger counties are expected to do so and report results on a rolling basis starting Election night; however, some more rural counties such as Cumberland, Luzerne, and Greene have said they won't start even start counting until November 4. This is the one place where a "red shift" may occur, with more rural county absentees being counted and reported after the bigger, bluer urban counties.

Conclusion: It will remain imperative to avoid premature data conclusions in an attempt to draw quick election outcome conclusions. That said, reports of a deceiving "red mirage" — whereby the initial vote count looks solid red and then shifts to blue after mail ballots are counted — have been greatly exaggerated. The most likely scenario, assuming no unforeseen logistical challenges, will be no prolonged "mirage" or dramatic red-to-blue shift; instead, enough votes will be counted by the early a.m. hours of November 4 to give us clarity on the presidential election outcome and other key races. The votes remaining, which will be most pronounced in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, will not be enough to change the overall outcome. And, the first votes that we see will be blue-heavy early and absentee votes in most places followed immediately by Election Day votes, blurring any mail-in or Election Day vote advantage.

