

## Appendix A: Full Methods

We recruited a target of 2,000 participants on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via Lucid (Coppock & McClellan, 2019), which quota-matches to the U.S. national distribution on age, gender, ethnicity, and region. In total, 2,667 participants entered the survey. However, to retain data quality, we included an open-ended text response where participants had to correctly answer the following question to continue with the survey: “Puppy is to dog as kitten is to?”. In total, 470 participants failed this question and therefore did not contribute data. A further 179 participants did not finish the survey and were removed. The participants indicated voting in the following way: 617 voted for Trump, 1036 voted for Biden, 37 voted for a third-party candidate, 163 did not vote for reasons outside of their control, 94 who did not vote but could have, 30 who did not vote out of protest, and 41 who preferred not to say.

Unsurprisingly, demographics differed for Biden and Trump voters. Biden voters were younger ( $M_{Biden} = 42$ ;  $M_{Trump} = 51$ ), more likely to have a college degree or higher ( $M_{Biden} = 50\%$ ;  $M_{Trump} = 39\%$ ), and less likely to be white ( $M_{Biden} = 66\%$  white;  $M_{Trump} = 86\%$  white). However, mean income (using a 10-point ladder scale) was roughly equivalent ( $M_{Biden} = 5.7$ ;  $M_{Trump} = 5.5$ ). Biden voters had the following gender breakdown: 514 male, 503 female, 5 transgender female, 4 transgender male, 5 trans/non-binary, 1 not listed, and 4 missing. Trump voters had the following gender breakdown: 289 male, 323 female, 1 transgender male, and 4 missing.

Participants first indicated who they voted for (if anyone) in the 2020 Presidential Election and, among those who indicated voting, we asked about the manner in which they voted. Unsurprisingly, many Biden voters indicated voting by mail (43%; 37% indicated voting in-person on election day and 20% indicated voting early in-person). In contrast, many Trump voters indicated voting in-person on election day (46%; 27% indicated voting early in-person and 27% indicated voting by mail). Participants were then asked for party affiliation and political ideology.

Participants were then asked, “Who do you believe won the 2020 Presidential Election?” and the response options were 0 = Definitely Joe Biden, 50 = It’s a toss-up, 100 = Definitely Donald Trump (note that these were reversed for half of the participants). Participants responded using a sliding scale. We then asked who they believed won the popular vote using the same scale (see Figure 2 for explanation of question wording). Of note, there was a missing parenthetical clarifying that “most votes” meant “won the popular vote” for one of the counterbalanced conditions of the voting question (the difference between counterbalance conditions was not significant for both Biden and Trump voters,  $p > .05$ ). These questions were followed by two questions about whether it’s more important for Trump/Biden to be President than for votes to be counted (which we do not include in our write-up for brevity), and whether people believe the U.S. should be separated based on red and blue states (see Figure 5). These questions were followed by the voter fraud questions (see Figure 1).

We then presented the following information to participants: “As you may know, news organizations (e.g., Fox News, NBC, ABC, the Associated Press) have called the election in favor of Joe Biden, saying that he is now the President-Elect.” This was followed by the questions about whether participants believe Biden is legitimately the next President and whether participants would accept the results if Trump conceded or lost his court challenges (as outlined in Figure 3). This block also included two questions that we did not include in our write-up: 1) “A Joe Biden Presidency would only be legitimate if Donald Trump concedes the election (that is, he says that Biden won)” – this question was not included in the write-up

because it did not correlate with the other related questions, likely because some participants were confused by the wording. 2) “If elected leaders of the Republican party state that they believe Joe Biden has won the Presidency but Donald Trump does not concede (that is, he maintains that he won), would you side with Republican leaders or Donald Trump?” – this question was not included in the write-up because it is on a different scale than the other items (participants responded on a sliding scale from 0 = Side with Republicans to 100 = Side with Trump) and thus hard to directly compare. These questions were followed (on a separate page) by the question about what people expect that they would do if Biden is inaugurated and Trump does not concede (Figure 4).

Next, participants completed three partisan spite (Moore-Berg, Ankori-Karlinsky, Hameiri, & Bruneau, 2020) and three partisan violence (Kalmoe & Mason, 2019) questions in a random order. We also asked participants if they would view it as acceptable to engage in violence if Biden/Trump is inaugurated – this item was not included in the overall partisan violence measure because it is not a direct comparison (i.e., Trump being inaugurated would be more outrage-inducing because he lost the election). As noted in Figure 5, the questions used “Democrat” and “Republican” depending on which was the in-party and out-party for the individual (and, hence, only those who indicated an affiliation with either party were administered the questions).

Participants were next asked to indicate which sources (if any) they have been following for election updates and were given the following options in a random order: CNN, ABC News, NBC News, CBS News, NPR, New York Times, Washington Post, Fox News, Breitbart, Other (with a free text box to specify). They then indicated the extent to which they trust/distrust the above sources on a scale from 1 – None at all to 5 – A great deal. They were also asked how closely they have been following the results of the election on a 4-point scale from 1 – Not following at all to 4 – Following very closely.

Finally, participants were asked a series of questions about COVID-19 (which are outside the scope of the present investigation), a 4-item Cognitive Reflection Test (which assesses one’s propensity to engage in analytic thinking; Frederick, 2005; Pennycook & Rand, 2019), and a 5-item political knowledge test. These were followed by demographic questions.